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Amassing a collection that spans a lifetime

Richard Macksey explains
his "pathological" hobby

By LENA DENIS
News-Letter Staff Writer

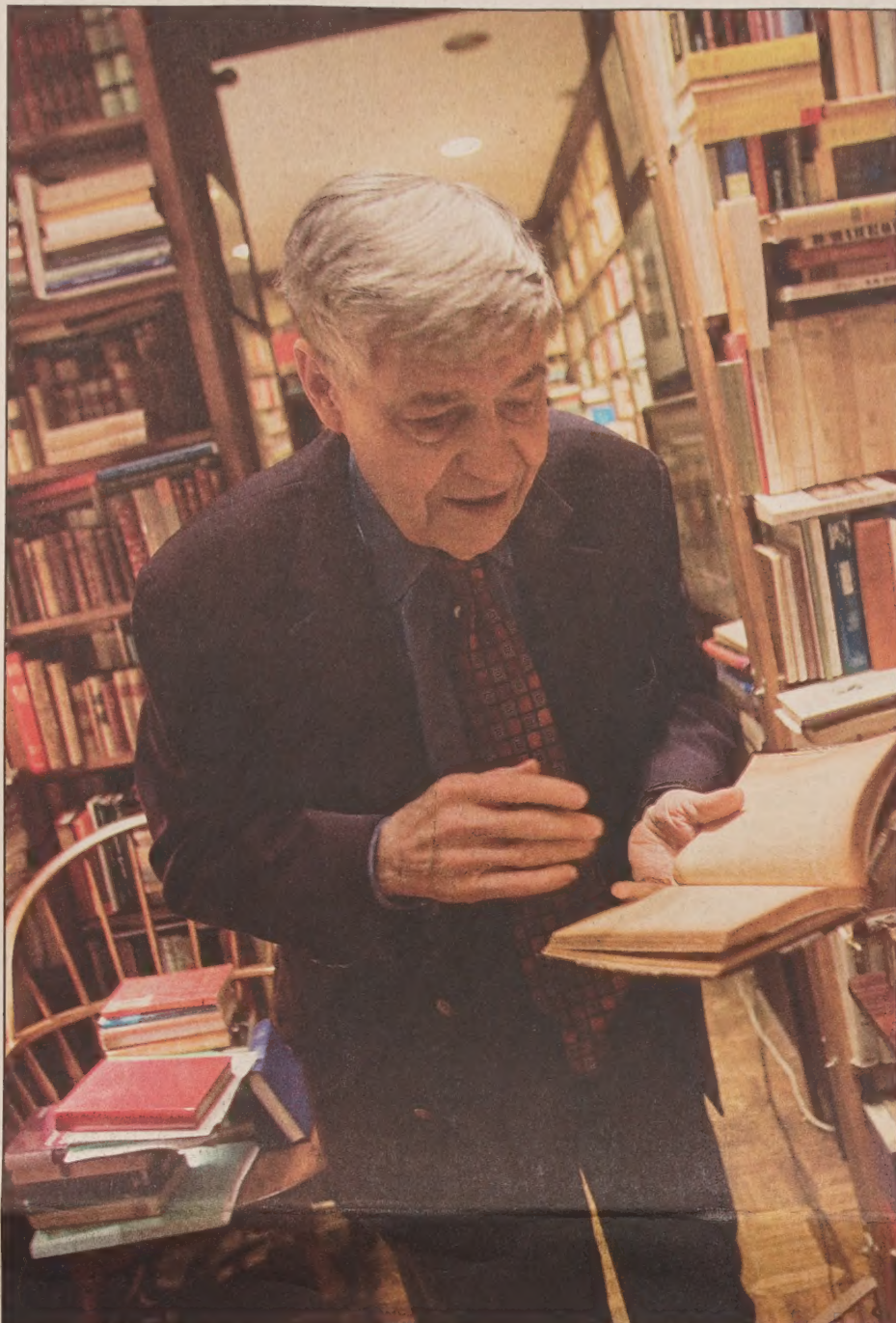
There are few sights on the East Coast as impressive as Professor Richard Macksey's library.

The 75,000-volume collection in his Guilford home is the subject of a documentary to be released this summer, and it has been recognized by sources as variable as *Johns Hopkins Magazine*, Baltimore publications and *Style*. It made Macksey laugh to recall it, saying that he had been surprised to be featured in a magazine he associated with home remodeling. His house was used for a story on libraries and architecture.

"Collecting is a pathological thing," Macksey said, sitting in a big chair in his library and smoking his pipe with deliberation. Any question that the professor was asked invariably turned into an epic story.

Recounting how his collection got started, he began with a description of his childhood in New Jersey, when he would take the trolley into town with a few coins to get lunch and a book. The first novel he bought for what would become an immense collection was Henry James's debut novel, *Roderick Hudson*.

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LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Prof. Richard Macksey's book collection has drawn the attention of many publications, from Baltimore publications to *Style*.

Physicians protest use of live pigs for practice

By MARIE CUSHING
News & Features Editor

A small group of physicians staged a protest in front of the School of Medicine Wednesday, decrying its use of live animals for surgical training — a practice abandoned by all but 10 of the country's medical schools — as outdated, unnecessary and cruel.

Motivated by press reports, members of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine lobbied the school to end the practice in front of members of local media.

Most medical schools are "well past the point of seeing the use of animals in live surgeries as an acceptable standard," said John Pippin, a Dallas cardiologist affiliated with the Committee.

"The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine engages in very limited use of animals in situations for which there is no adequate training substitute," said a statement released from the School of

Medicine in an e-mail from Communication and Public Affairs Associate Director Kim Hoppe to the *News-Letter*. None of the protesting doctors were Hopkins employees.

Pippin's requests to discuss the surgeries with Hopkins went unanswered.

Protestors argued that the University should better utilize its surgery simulation devices.

Simulators "are just as good if not better as pig surgeries, or else they wouldn't be used in 90 percent of American medical schools," said Barbara Wasserman, a Hopkins medical school graduate who now practices medicine in Montgomery County.

"With human simulators, students can practice techniques more than once. Surgery on animals is not efficient and certainly not humane," she said.

Pippin saw the reluctance of Hopkins and other institutions to stop the use of live pigs in

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SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Pippin, M.D., heads the committee that protested at the medical school yesterday.

Plans to develop vacant lot in Charles Village delayed again

By MAX McKENNA
News & Features Editor

The future site of the Olmsted — the gaping, undeveloped lot on 33rd and St. Paul Streets — will remain vacant at least through the summer, as plans to begin construction in August have been suspended indefinitely.

Due in part to the national housing slump, which has affected Charles Village as a whole, the delay is yet another in a series of setbacks that have slowed the project for a year and half.

"We need to have something happen, it needs to be positive, and it needs to be soon," said Dana Moore, president of the Charles Village Civic Association (CVCA).

At a meeting of the CVCA Wednesday night, Tim Pula, senior development director at Struever Bros., Eccles & Rouse (SBER), the con-

tractors responsible for the Olmsted, presented new plans for the building while informing the residents of the delay.

"The building couldn't be financed today because of the economy," said Pula, who took over the Olmsted project in July of last year. "Our plan, when changing from condos to apartment units, was

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CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Struever Bros., Eccles & Rouse's Tim Pula presents new plans for the Olmsted at a Charles Village Civic Association meeting yesterday.

Univ. approves new avenue for green projects

By ALEXANDRA WATSON
News-Letter Staff Writer

Hopkins students are continuing to show their support for a "green" university, having just received approval for a new environmental sustainability initiative, tentatively called the Sustainable Hopkins Infrastructure Program (SHIP).

The program, which was approved shortly before spring break, will provide a simplified avenue for students and employees to secure funding and support for green projects on campus.

The program hopes to support projects that will improve energy efficiency and reduce operating costs across Homewood. The University will form a committee of administrators and stu-

dents who will review project proposals and green-light funding based on their adherence to certain criteria, which have yet to be finalized.

"The overall goals are to get students involved in sustainability and to reduce the environmental impact and operating costs of the university," said Daniel Teran, president of the class of 2011.

What eventually became SHIP was originally pitched by Teran to the Hopkins administration with the support of the Student Council. In its initial phase, the project was billed as a "Sustainability Revolving Loan Fund," and was essentially a pool of capital which would have been loaned to departments with the intention of increasing the fund as the departments saw returns on their

green investments.

The inspiration for the Fund was a program called the Harvard Green Campus Initiative, which was implemented by Harvard in 2000. The finalized program, SHIP, bears little resemblance to Harvard's Initiative.

Following the administrative meeting held before spring break, extensive changes were made to the initial proposal — most importantly, there will not be a specific fund from which SHIP projects will draw money, and money will be given to the projects, not lent.

Where the money will be drawn from is not yet clear. According to Davis Bookhart, Hopkins's environmental stewardship manager, the University's financial deans noted that a centralized

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Brody reflects on his years at Hopkins, decision to retire

By MARIE CUSHING
News & Features Editor

With word of his retirement making national news, University President William Brody was reminded of his 2005 statement to the *News-Letter* that when he retired, he would play in a piano bar. While no gig offers have come calling, Brody took some time to speak with the *News-Letter* to discuss his time at Hopkins.

The *News-Letter*: Now that you've announced your decision to retire, how are you feeling?

William Brody: I was originally pretty depressed to think about not being in my job at Hopkins.

The more I get away from that emotion, the more comfortable I am with my decision. It's time. Twelve years has been great, but I haven't had any time to myself and I'd like to have a little flex time.

N-L: When did you decide to resign from the presidency?

WB: Specifically, about a week before I resigned. But when I took the job, I said I'm committed if the Board [of Trustees] wanted for 10 years. Then 10 became 11 ... At 12 years, the decision for me was whether to stay on for another five to seven for another [fundraising] campaign or let a new president come in and define the campaign goals. This is my second fundraising campaign at Hopkins. That's probably sufficient.

N-L: What reaction have you received?

WB: I've gotten lots of e-mails and



CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Brody will be leaving the University at the end of December.

letters from people saying, "Congratulations, it's been a great run" ... It's been heartwarming.

N-L: What was your impression of Hopkins when you were first approached about the presidency?

WB: My feeling was that Hopkins for undergraduate education was very much underappreciated and that there wasn't a sense of community. It always had a good academic reputation, but Hopkins was not one of the schools that competed at the very highest level for students ... I just thought there was a

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Few students create own majors

Just three students each year complete the rigorous process for Interdisciplinary Studies

By STEPHANIE DELMAN
News-Letter Staff Writer

With 35 choices of possible majors, it might seem as though there are plenty of options to choose from. But for certain students with a wide range of interests, confining their course of study primarily to one discipline may not be the best fit. The Krieger School of Arts and Sciences offers a handful of undergraduates a lesser known 36th option: Interdisciplinary Studies, otherwise known as "Create Your Own Major."

Michael Winnet, a junior, said that he averaged a 2.0 GPA as a chemical engineering major. The first semester after he created his own major, he made Dean's List. "I hated engineering, so I never went to class aside from test days and the day they hand out the syllabus. I had no passion for what I was studying," he said.

Winnet took a year off after his sophomore year and reevaluated what he wanted to study. When he returned to Hopkins, he immediately switched into the Krieger School and began scouting classes that better suited his interests.

"I wanted to pick classes from everything — from all different departments, from philosophy, religion, anthropology," Winnet said.

Interdisciplinary Studies came up as a compromise between creative freedom and structure. According to Dean John Bader, the program creates a rigorous, defensive framework through which students can pursue an idea or theme in partnership with faculty member.

As an alternative to a more traditional major, it is appealing to students who find who their academic interests don't fit the requirements of a traditional major. While many undergraduates would jump at the chance to hand-pick their courses and dodge requirements, the process is rigorous — approximately half of all proposed majors get approved, according to Bader, making an average of three approved majors per year.

Bader said he introduced Interdisciplinary Studies to the Krieger School four years ago, after the Social and Behavioral Areas Studies major and the Humanities Areas Studies major were deemed unsuitable.

"[The Areas Studies majors] were interdisciplinary by structure but not by theme. They were kind of a mess. They asked for a wide variety of random classes, and as we looked at them, we noticed they didn't hold together intellectually and that students didn't use them anyway. We thought, what's the point?" Bader said.

Bader said the Krieger School realized they had to replace the "catch-all majors" with another alternative, because students were still interested in creating their own academic paths.

When Winnet's academic advisor warned him that he'd soon have to declare a major, he floated the idea of creating his own. When his advisor was not

supportive of the idea, Winnet brought his proposal to a favorite teacher, Professor Bhriugu Singh, who teaches a popular course called Sensuality and Religion in the Indo-European Imagination.

With support from Singh, Bader and a team of four faculty advisors, Winnet drafted his proposal, entitled "Consciousness of Thought." He researched the topic thoroughly, referencing an existing program with the same name offered at University of California at Santa Cruz, and drafted a central question: How do humans think, and what are the consequences of being a thinking animal?

The next several steps involved hand-picking four semesters of courses (from philosophy to psychology to anthropology), brainstorming a capstone project and presenting in front of deans and the Curriculum Committee at a hearing.

"At [the hearing], they're supposed to find the weaknesses in your proposal. But at that point, there were hardly any. I had already shown it to 10 professors, and I was confident about my presentation," Winnet said.

Winnet said that although the process was long and challenging, it was worth it in the end.

"If you feel there's nothing here than can be studied all in one field, and if you have the right blend of courses and a concise conceptual question that can be answered, you have to know there's going to be obstacles but it's well worth it to take that shot," he said.

Unlike Winnet, junior Sarah Feinmark did not have luck in pursuing her own major.

Feinmark said that she was attracted to Hopkins during the college search because of the Area Majors, which her parents had both chosen when they studied at Hopkins years ago.

When the program ceased to exist in her freshman year, Feinmark decided to propose her own major based on her interest in epidemiology.

"I wanted to study how different cultures view illness, such as the Black Plague, and I wanted to learn how the views have changed over the years. My ideal major would include history of medicine, public health and social sciences such as sociology and psychology," Feinmark said.

When she proposed the idea to Dean Bader, however, she was told that she should simply stick with the public health major.

"Even after explaining how no major would be sufficient, [Dean Bader] believed that it would be in my best interest to just follow the beaten path," Feinmark said.

She said that her experience discouraged her from trying to pursue her interests.

"We are getting undergraduate educations not to perfect a trade, but to learn as much as we can about all that we can. All of the majors I could choose leave me with too little time to explore outside of my major," Feinmark said.

Bader said that similarity to a pre-set major is one of the first

things he looks for when reading over a proposal. In cases like Feinmark's, he said it is not worth all the effort if the end result is so similar to a major that is already offered at Hopkins.

"Intellectual coherence" is the next thing to look for in a proposal, according to Bader. "We're not looking for a random group of courses that you're hoping someone will swallow as a major," he said.

The next factors he looks at are rigor of courses, genuine curiosity and honest intellectual questions.

"One thing we didn't want to have happen was this to be some desperate senior who can't figure out how to get out of Hopkins because they kept failing key requirements for their major, so they create one. This is not designed as an escape clause. It's more legitimate than that," Bader said.

According to Mark Presnell, director of the career center, the rigor of this process will benefit students in the long run. He said that as long as the student has crafted a successful major suited to their interests, future employers should not have a problem with this alternative route.

"In the liberal arts, there aren't point-to-point, major-to-career maps anyway. As long as you can articulate to an employer what you want to do and why, and you provide a few lines of description on your resume about what goes into your major, that's what they're looking for," Presnell said.

According to Presnell, a self-made major could actually benefit a student in the job hunt.

"Sometimes it's a starting place in an interview, so it could definitely be a great, unique thing," he said.

Freshman Pierce Delahunt is just starting out on the path to create his own major. He said he has been warned of the challenges to come but that he's ready to combat them.

Delahunt said that although he didn't hear about Interdisciplinary Studies until he was enrolled at Hopkins, he always knew he'd want to do something "a little different."

"I always knew that I am a weird person and that I'd be interested in doing something that reflects more who I am than something that comes pre-packaged," he said.

Delahunt took a gap year in between high school and college during which he traveled and thought deeply about his interests.

"I tried to understand what fascinates me most about people or if it was different things. When I thought of the word 'perspective,' I thought, that's it. I want to study how people get information, what affects the way they see the world, and I want to study this through physics, psychology, Writing Seminars, philosophy, acting and art — all kinds of things," he said.

Delahunt said that he plans to propose his major next fall and that his vision of future education is one without any pre-set majors.



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Donald Henderson was one of several experts who discussed smallpox at the Foreign Affairs Symposium last night.

FAS tackles international epidemics

By COLIN RAY
News-Letter Staff Writer

Four public health experts from around the world gathered in the Glass Pavilion on Wednesday to present their own work on global epidemics and to tout the need for continued dialogue and action on AIDS and malaria as part of the Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS).

Randall Packard presented first on the prevalence of malaria and the challenges in combating globally. The focus of his presentation was the feasibility of eradicating malaria. Packard is the William H. Welch Professor of History of Medicine at the School of Public Health and specializes in the social history of health and disease in Africa as well as the history of international health.

"Malaria breeds in conditions of poverty, warfare, social dislocation, deteriorating health services and disease that remain a part of daily life in much of Africa," he said.

"Conditions in Africa make it unlikely we can completely eradicate malaria. Getting it under control is possible. Not a very optimistic viewpoint, but it leaves us open to discuss what can be done."

He cited increases in funding and better technologies, such as pesticidal bed nettings, as changes that have been and will continue to be important in fighting the disease.

Nizam Ahmed, the director of the HIV/AIDS program and South Asia program advisor of Save the Children, a non-governmental organization, presented on the successes of fighting AIDS in Bangladesh. Save the Children's aggressive education and prevention efforts have kept AIDS in check in Bangladesh, a country surrounded by nations with high HIV/AIDS prevalence.

"The problem was identified in a timely manner, recognized by government and action has been facilitated by NGOs," he said in explaining the success of his program.

Save the Children has taken a multi-faceted approach in fighting the disease, covering everything from mass media advertising to creating aware-

ness to getting religious leaders on board with "declaring war on HIV/AIDS," Ahmed said.

"We are trying to utilize our experiences, but we still have a long way to go," he said. "This is an exciting opportunity for a national program to bring issue into the light for young people, and to pass on experiences. We all need to show our support and express our commitment for the next generation that we are going to have to live with."

The penultimate presenter was Donald Henderson of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's Center for Biosecurity. Henderson spearheaded a task force with the United States government in the 1960s who, with cooperation from the Soviet Union and other countries, helped publicly eradicate smallpox. He stressed, however, that the work is not done yet.

"The Soviet Union's bioweapons program amassed over twenty tons of smallpox, and with the breakup of the U.S.S.R., the 50,000 workers in the program

were cut off and dispersed. The fact that this smallpox is unaccounted for is a still a major concern," he said.

Nicole Cheetham, the director of the International Division of Advocates for Youth, presented on the challenges her group faces in helping adolescents make responsible, informed reproductive health choices.

"Our group's motto is 'rights, respect and responsibility.' Young people should have the right to information and contraceptives, the respect of others regardless of their lifestyle and the responsibility to make good decisions," she said.

Her group focuses not only on health issues but also in fighting homophobia and the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS. She called on students to take action in supporting science-based reproductive health education.

"We have tremendous capacity and knowledge on the ground to share resources and skills to work for a common good," she said.

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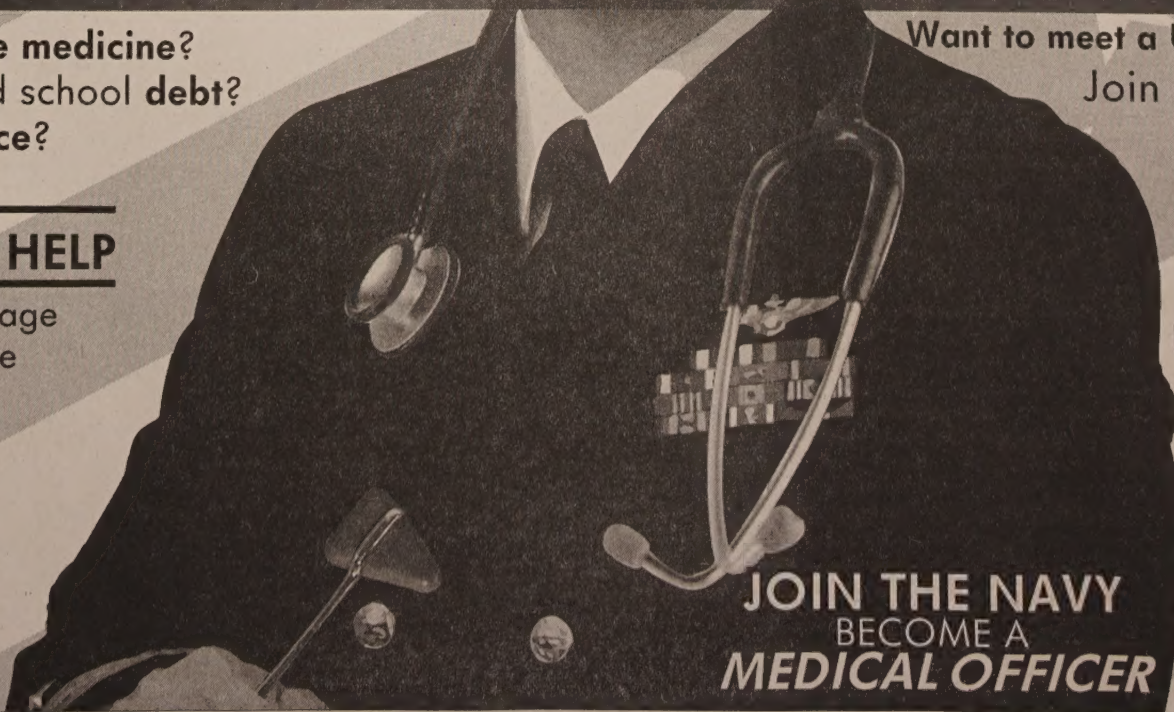
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Physicians protest use of live pigs in surgery

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surgeries as opposition to change. "I think people learned that way, they know that way and they think it's valuable ... There is a reluctance to change things when you feel they were successful in the past," he said.

"It's a waste of time, a waste of resources and a waste of life," protester and Hopkins alumnus Nick Kulkarni ('96) said.

He participated in a pig surgery while a medical student at George Washington University, which has since then phased out the practice.

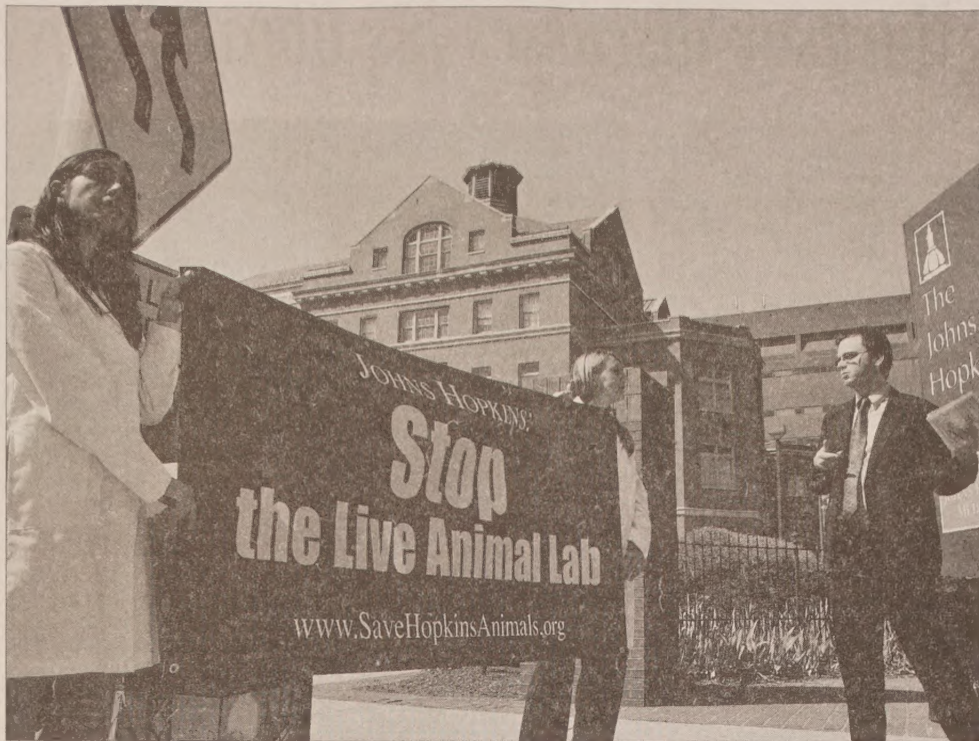
Now an anesthesiologist in Virginia, Kulkarni preferred using mannequins where students practice inserting central lines or intubation.

"That's more accurate. I'm not a veterinarian," he said.

While in her junior year at the Hopkins medical school, Wasserman performed surgery on a live, anesthetized dog.

"What I learned in the dog lab had no applicability to taking care of humans," she said.

It was the experience of



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Doctors from across the country protested the use of live pigs in surgery practice at the School of Medicine on Wednesday.

performing surgery on a live dog — which no longer occurs at Hopkins or any other medical campus — that served as a wake-up call for Pippin.

"In the middle of surgery the dog woke up while its chest was still open ... The course instructor could not put the dog back under, so it had to be killed on the table," he said.

Pippin was comforted in his belief that the medical school will inevitably end the use of live

pigs in surgeries.

"We're confident that Hopkins will change. At some point they will have to, because they will be the last school in the country [doing the surgeries]," Pippin said.

Protestors held a sign urging medical school students to contact an anonymous tip hotline with information on the pig surgeries.

Hopkins medical students have already provided informa-

tion to Pippin, including reports that students can request to not participate in the surgeries.

While she has not heard responses from medical students, Wasserman said she received "very positive, supportive responses" to an opinions piece she wrote in the *Baltimore Sun*.

Both she and Pippin cited a recent editorial by the *News-Letter* condemning the use of live pigs in surgeries as a motivating factor behind the protest.

Brody reflects on his presidential experiences

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wonderful opportunity to really create a sense of community, in part by transforming the campus. I think architecture plays a very important role in how people think about themselves and their work. By moving into the Nichols House and being on campus, I think it created a different relationship between the President and the students.

N-L: What are you most proud of achieving at Hopkins?

WB: What I'm most proud of are the people that we've been able to recruit and attract. I think we have the best group of deans and the best group of administrative staff anywhere in the country. An organization only as good as the people you have and I think we created a world class team of people ... The world doesn't see that. The world sees the impact. They see all the buildings, the transformation of Peabody and the Homewood campus, and now we'll be building the hospital in East Baltimore. Those things are only possible if you have good people.

People talk about how much money we've raised. It's not the money we raised; it's how well you spend the money, how well you invest the money you've raised and how well you put that money to good use. To do that you have to have good people. So in a way I'm most proud of the people. And the students. We have phenomenal students ... Students have just done many things and its just incredible to see.

N-L: What was frustrating about the position?

WB: When you're president, everybody goes right to the top with their complaints, so you always hear the complaints. Whenever somebody has an issue, they think their issue is the most important thing to the University ... I had some very unsavory e-mails from parents about mice in the dorm room. You have to deal with a lot of people who have issues.

The thing that was probably the most difficult for me was the death of the students, two students who were killed. You really take that personally because the students in many ways are like your children, even though we don't get to know a lot of individual students — we can't possibly know 4,000 undergraduate students ... Whenever there is a tragedy, you really feel that personally. There's always a lot of backlash from parents who think you should have handled things differently. There was a lot of criticism. That was tough.

N-L: What helped you through it?

WB: I had a tremendous

amount of support. A lot of students wrote wonderful letters and e-mails in support. My wife, my family and the people who work in my office and at Nichols House were extremely supportive and encouraging. They told me to keep going ... When things go wrong, you always doubt yourself ... It's human nature and of course in our society the public wants to be critical too. If you look at [the shooting at] Virginia Tech, people were second guessing, saying the university president should have done this or that. The fact is that in a tragedy you take that all very personally.

N-L: Are there issues at Hopkins you wish you had confronted?

WB: There are probably hundred of issues. The trick in this job is focus and the trick in life is focus ... Somebody once told me you only have so many attention units. So the more you focus on one thing the more likely that one thing is going to get done. If you divide that focus over 20 things, you're less likely to get any one of those 20 things accomplished ... You always have many more things you should do, or could do, then you have time to do them.

When I came in, the most important thing I saw for undergraduate education was creating a better sense community, making Hopkins a place with a stronger sense community and creating more interaction so it would be more attractive for students to come to Hopkins. We've outpaced all of our peers institutions in our growth in admissions. We've accomplished that, and it's now time to look at some other things we would like to do.

N-L: Do you think the University should officially divest from Sudan?

WB: You can't divest if you don't own anything. The University doesn't own anything in Sudan. There are no major corporations or minor corporations in Sudan that we would be invested in. It's very different from South Africa where there were companies — and I wasn't really around at the time — but we did have students involved in the committee that looked at our investments ... In Sudan, it's sort of a non-investment issue, and we haven't been able to get that message across.

...We probably are invested in Coca Cola, I would guess, or in Pepsi-Cola or one of those companies. Should we not own stock in Pepsi-Cola because they sell in the Sudan? I think that gets to be too complicated. Should we invest in companies in Russia or China because they don't promote democracy? That's a broader issue.

N-L: Hopkins tuition has grown over the course of your presidency. Do you think you could have done more to make Hopkins affordable?

WB: Well if you look at our financial aid package, the net cost of coming to Hopkins has not grown. Yes, inflation has grown but the net cost — tuition minus financial aid — has remained competitive.

We're now in a very challenging situation because several universities like MIT and others have introduced much richer financial aid packages. They have endowment per student that dwarfs our endowment per student ... I think that the big priority for the next campaign is trying to raise more resources for financial aid. I think it's critical.

N-L: Since you took office the endowment has nearly tripled, and many have credited you with this. What makes you a good fundraiser?

WB: [Laughs] It's a team effort. One thing that's different at Hopkins is, I'm not the only one doing fundraising. We have a whole team of people, including deans and faculty ... and a superb development organization. I enjoy fundraising because it's about connecting Hopkins to people who are passionate about something that Hopkins is doing.

...It's about connecting. A number of times I go talk to somebody who, let's say, runs a large foundation and has a lot of money. They say "Well, Bill, you're wasting your time. Hopkins is not of interest to our foundation or to me. We're not going to give Hopkins any money." I actually like to hear that. Then it becomes a challenge.

...The most moving gift I got was for 10 or 15 dollars. There was a man who had cancer who was hospitalized at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. He was in and out of the hospital and eventually died. His son, who I think was about 11 years old, was so impressed with the care his father got and was so compassionate that he took his life savings, which was 10 or 15 dollars, and donated it to the cancer center. We found out that the son loved play lacrosse and was great Blue Jays fan. We called up lacrosse coach Dave Petramila and he invited the son to a game, to sit on bench and made him the honorary captain of the team, had him into locker room, gave him a jersey. That's what it's all about.

N-L: What do you plan to do now?

WB: I don't know. It's kind of

scary. I've never been a situation where I haven't had a job or hadn't known what I was going to do next. So I'm going to take some time and think about what I'm going to do in the next phase of my life ... I'm planning on staying in Baltimore. I have some books I want to write and a bunch of things I'm going to get done.

N-L: Will you still play a role at Hopkins?

WB: I'll always be involved in Hopkins one way or another. The question is, what is the role? When new president comes I will be as far away as I can be because I don't want to interfere ... For a year or so I'll stay away. Depending on whether or not I've taking on something full time or not, I might work at Hopkins. Maybe I'll help out with the international programs ... Right now I'm noncommittal.

N-L: Have you given any thought as to who you would like to see as the next president of Hopkins?

WB: No. I'll completely stay out of it. I just want somebody who can figure out the next steps for Hopkins and take the University to the next level. I think it's a very attractive position and hopefully it will attract the right person ... My personal view is the person is more important than the background but I will leave that up to the search committee.

N-L: Do you have advice for your successor?

WB: Enjoy the ride. Attract the best and brightest people around you. Consult widely with the Hopkins community, because there are lots of bright people with great ideas.

The best piece of advice was what Michael Bloomberg told me when he stepped down as chair [of the Board of Trustees], which was "Brody, don't screw it up." Whoever comes in next, don't screw it up.

Construction on Olmsted lot delayed indefinitely

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to put shovels in the ground in August. Now, we're not going to make August."

Motivated in part by poor sales of condominiums in the Village Lofts (another SBER project), the Olmsted was redesigned from a condominium complex into an apartment complex.

The new design will offer the originally intended ground-floor retail space as well as office space.

"When the condo market started to fall apart last year, it didn't get better a month or two down the line. It got worse. That's when we decided not to proceed with a condo project," Pula said.

Moore said the majority of Charles Village is pleased with the Olmsted's new design.

"We all accept now that condos are not a good market and that there's a need for good affordable housing in Charles Village," she said. "We're so far from where we started, but we're slow-walking towards something more desirable."

John Spurrier, CVCA vice president and a Baltimore realtor with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, echoed Moore, noting Hopkins's significance in the redesign.

"A good percentage of Charles Village is transient. There are a lot of students and faculty, so there will always be a demand for rental housing. Plus, Baltimore is not particularly a condo town," he said.

The new Olmsted will be slightly taller than the original design and include 202 apartments as well as a public garage with 530 parking spaces.

In the preliminary plans, it is 24 feet taller than Charles Commons on the Charles Street side, though it steps away from Lovegrove Street so as not to overshadow the smaller Charles Street buildings, which had been a concern of the CVCA.

As for the ground-floor retail space, SBER hopes to see a bistro-style restaurant on the corner of St. Paul Street and 33rd Street and a wine bar on the St. Paul facade.

However, a major concern for the CVCA remains whether these businesses will compete with other locally owned businesses on St. Paul Street.

"We are keeping that in mind and we would like to see something that is locally owned in there," Pula said. "My retail people tell me there is a really strong interest in retail in Charles Village. I think that's a real testament to this community and this market that people want to come here and own retail here."

Pula assured the CVCA that the smaller, boutique-style grocers interested in Olmsted retail space would not compete with Eddie's Market.

"The reality is there will be a mix of retailers. It cannot be based entirely on local retail. That doesn't work financially," he said.

In response to this, Moore said, "Fine, but don't compete with our homegrown retail."

Jean Fullhouse, a realtor for Baltimore city and Baltimore county from the Maryland Association of Realtors, believes that a combination of local, regional and national businesses ultimately helps the local businesses.

"People gravitate toward local business. They want to support local businesses, and that's what makes Charles Village successful," Fullhouse said. "Also, certain new businesses that are part of a national chain, such as

Barnes and Noble, are phenomenal ingredients and strong additions to the community."

The proposed retail space in the Olmsted would be similar to the existing retail space in the ground floor of the Village Lofts.

"There's been a need for a strip like this," Signatures manager Lisa Belman said.

Although Belman considers increased retail space as beneficial to business owners and the community, she noted that it has not spared local businesses from the recent economic slowdown.

"Most of these businesses are relatively new, so we have been getting more customers, but it is a little slower than anticipated," she said.

Fullhouse and Moore agree that the Hopkins community plays an undeniable role in the shaping not only of Charles Village businesses but of housing as well.

"Without the University, Charles Village would not be what it is. The academic community is a core part of the village," Fullhouse said. "Charles Village is an eclectic community composed of different types of buyers. Many university people, professors and grad students, and working people in the city who just like the village feel really makes it an interesting community."

Although Hopkins students and faculty have enormous influence on the community, it is important that the rest of Charles Village not be overlooked, according to Moore.

Moore hopes the final Olmsted will not cater uniquely to students, but will be practical to other members of the community as well.

"I think it's great the students are here as consumers of whatever is offered on St. Paul Street, but 100 percent student housing is not a good change. We want the community to be for everybody, a mix. Charles Village is a ratatouille of people and things," she said.

A post office and a hardware store are two examples of what Moore would like to see in the Olmsted's retail space.

At the end of his presentation, Pula apologized on behalf of SBER for the unsightliness of the vacant lot.

"As I've gotten my feet wet and given up to speed on this, we have realized the site has not been maintained as well as it should be," he said. SBER will mow the lawn, repair the fence and clean up the site on a consistent basis until they are ready to break ground.

"It's an ugly hole. People start wondering, will that hole ever change? What can be done to change it? That hole represents the economy; it represents the stagnant housing market," Moore said. "It's exciting that there are still plans, we're just tired of the whole thing. Tim Pula's presentation was good, but now we'd like to see this happen."

"We're not upset, we're not angry. I think we should all plant herbs in the lot and have our summer gardens," she said.

Currently, the Village Lofts are just under 50 percent sold. Over the last two months, they averaged three sales a month, which was an increase, according to Pula.

"This may simply be the spring Baltimore housing market," he said.

— Additional reporting by Phyllis Zhu

CORRECTIONS

In the March 13 edition of the *News-Letter*, on page A2, the article entitled "Intelligence Director McConnell speaks at FAS" did not identify Dave Rose as a member of the Foreign Affairs Symposium.

In the same edition, on page A8, the brief headline "SAIS picks new D.C. office director" incorrectly implies that G. Eugene Martin has been appointed the director of the Washington, D.C. office. He was actually appointed as the director of the office of Hopkins-Nanjing Center for Chinese and American Studies, not the director of the entire institution.

Additionally, in the same issue, on page B4, the article "BSO's Alsop aptly combines past and present" did not have a byline. The story should be credited to Michael Arnst.

In the same edition, the graphic on page A10 was credited incorrectly. It was made by Matt Hansen.

The *News-Letter* regrets these errors.

NEWS & FEATURES

Two Truman Scholars from Hopkins this year

By **PAYAL PATNAIK**
News-Letter Staff Writer

For the first time, Hopkins has had a pair of juniors named as recipients of the nationwide Harry S Truman Scholarship.

Kurt Herzer and Sonia Sarkar were both granted the award, amounting to \$30,000, which is given to between 60 and 65 juniors nationwide each year who have demonstrated leadership and dedication to public service.

"But you can take it to a fairly interesting angle," Herzer, a public health major, said.

Herzer framed his application around public health and health services research and policy, focusing on patient safety. He made a policy proposal in which he suggested the creation of a public-private partnership that could be a national safety improvement team.

The most critical factor to his success was excellent mentoring, Herzer said, ranging from his academic advisor to those he worked with in biostatistics and health policy.

Herzer, though he wants to keep his options open, is heading towards an M.D./Ph.D. degree in health services research and health policy.

Sarkar found out the results last Tuesday, just hours before the official announcement.

"I was so nervous, especially after the Truman interviews," Sarkar said. "They [the board] throw questions and you, and some even seem angry." She was asked questions about poetry (the question happened to be about her favorite poet, Rabindranath Tagore), education policy, the presidential elections and healthcare plans. One other notable question was whether she would plan a preemptive strike against Iran (she said she wouldn't).

Sarkar's policy proposal was about urban housing's connec-

tion with poor health. Her work with Project HEALTH gave her a focus on housing and exposed her to clients who had unlivable housing, such as one with an unsafe design or asbestos.

In her proposal, she described the different types of housing and built off the CDC's Health Homes Initiative, which made guidelines for neighborhoods. She wants to put actions into policies and create housing help desks through Baltimore, she said.

She hopes to be a public health analyst and focus on public health and law, working for an advocacy-based group and designing programs with Health and Human Services.

"Kurt and I are excited that within public health there's such an interest that translates into being an advocate," she said.

Both Herzer and Sarkar filled out an application consisting of 13 questions.

"It was hard not overloading them with different things, working on the application, conveying a theme, making them clean, soliciting letters of recommendation and making sure it followed through," Herzer said.

Hopkins nominated four candidates and sent their applications to the Truman Foundation at the national level. They were then reviewed by the national Truman Scholarship Foundation. Three Hopkins students were selected as finalists.

"Dean Bader put together mock interviews with professors and basically gave a 20-minute drill of what the interview would be like. He gave us pressured questions that we gave a response to and fine-tuned us to prepare for the final interview," Herzer said. He had his interview in the middle of spring break.

Sarkar noted that although the foundation has typically focused on law-based projects rather than medicine-based projects, the people that she met came from more widespread interests.

Macksey discusses his library, career at Hopkins

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

"Some people have a focused idea of what they want to collect. Focus has never been my strong suit. You know, [books] bring people together and you share them. It's not a totally benign vice, but it's not the worst vice either," Macksey said he has even collected bad poetry, as well as things he really likes, and describes himself as a pack rat.

Some of his volumes are very rare, such as first editions of Tristram Shandy, books inscribed by their authors, and correspondences of authors as varied as Henry James and W.B. Yeats. He has some duplicate volumes, which includes in his collection Coleridge; authors like Coleridge constantly revised their work and published different editions of their works in their lifetimes, as well as different editions which were released posthumously.

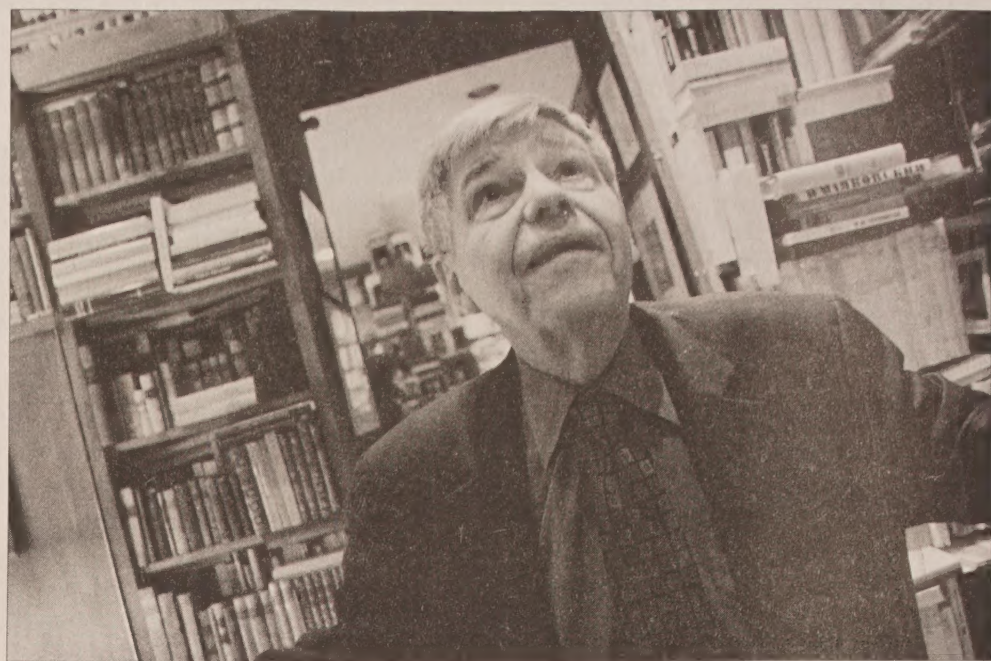
When asked what he wishes he had more of, Proust comes up as a favorite author Macksey seems to want to collect forever. He also loves biographies and said that they often get his attention when he least expects it.

The professor has taught many courses over the years at his home, a staple in the minds of those who have taken his classes at Hopkins. Wishing to have cookies and coffee and to have the books handy, the image of Macksey at the head of the table in his library never changes. He is always there smoking his pipe, speaking effusively both on-topic and about anything else that comes to his mind, often with his fingers interlaced and resting against his lips as he thinks.

Macksey fought in the Korean War and later attended Princeton University, where he studied ancient mathematics. He went to Hopkins for graduate school in 1953 with the intention of studying science and going to medical school. Instead, he earned a doctorate in comparative literature in 1957 and began to teach at the University two years later. He laughs at the reason for doing so — his need to get a job, since at this time he got married.

"At that time, and it's still true, you could mix and match degrees," Macksey said, explaining how he ended up taking humanities classes in Gilman Hall and studying with some of the great Hopkins professors of the era: Leo Spitzer, René Girard, George Boas and Nathan Nettleman, among others. His interests remained wide and varying, and his graduate work, then his teaching, encompassed a great deal of them.

"I've wandered," Macksey said succinctly, describing his path from this point forward. He has taught a wide variety of courses over the years on the Homewood campus and at the



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Macksey has an extensive library in his Guilford home featuring first editions as well as newer, more sentimental favorites.

medical school. He taught in an experimental program called the History of Ideas and contributed to the creation of the Humanities Center as Hopkins students know it. Additionally, he taught in a program called the Physician in Society at the medical school, focusing on a variety of topics from medical literature to medical history and many things in between.

"The thing that I like about Hopkins is that you don't have to move very far, physically and in some ways intellectually, to find new terrain," he said, reflecting on how expansive his studies and his teaching have been. He has taught everything from film classes to literature to medical history.

In the many years that Macksey has been here, he has seen many social and political changes in the nation, the city of Baltimore and at Hopkins. Many things that have changed he sees as positive.

"There were times when you really had to knock on an administrator's head rather hard to get an answer if it had to do with undergraduates. That's not the case now." Research and opportunities in general have expanded to undergraduates in forms that were never available before.

Macksey had never thought that he would stay at Hopkins, but when he was offered a job by "a California institution that will remain nameless" and realized that he did not want to leave.

"I'm happy here," he said. "Hopkins was extraordinary in many respects."

One of Macksey's favorite stories about Hopkins is how a female friend of his was admitted at the medical school in the 1920s, decades before Harvard and other prestigious American universities started taking women.

Macksey enthusiastically recounted his experiences at the University, including strange ones. The weirdest experience he had, he said, was when he was first teaching here. He had been doing work in Gilman Hall until "5 or 6 a.m." one night and then walked outside to see what he thought was the end of the

world. The professor saw a large object in the sky coming towards him, getting bigger and bigger, and he thought it was a comet about to crash into Earth. He soon realized that it was actually a rocket with sodium flares that had been launched off the coast of Delaware.

However, Macksey has never proceeded along the University's guidelines with blind acceptance, and voices his discontent when he believes it is merited.

"It's very easy for things to stall here because we don't have the size of most modern research universities — we are building buildings, but we need to rebuild [departments]," he said, in a rare moment of criticism.

Macksey worries that some departments, particularly within the humanities, are dwindling in size. He used the example of the English department, which he believes is phenomenal in part because of its small size. However, he said it has gotten even smaller over the years, though new appointments have been made, and he worries for the future of the non-science departments at Hopkins.

The ultimate symbol of the professor's fears is the renovation of Gilman Hall.

Macksey agreed that the new building will mean tremendous new opportunities for students and student research, and he is curious as to what will happen. However, he is dearly attached to Gilman Hall as he knew it and worries about what will change.

Expressing his frustration with blanket statements about the new building, he said, "We are told that this is a confirmation of the importance of the humanities at Hopkins. Well, I mean

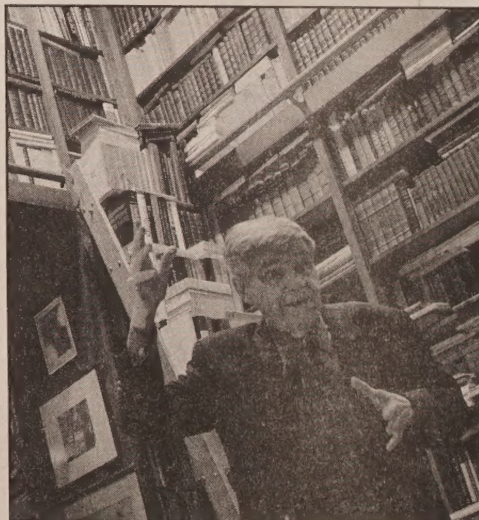
Disney World shows the importance of Cinderella. What kind of statement is that?"

Macksey would like to see the campus's ecological state to keep improving, and he hopes that trees will not keep disappearing. He has been very happy with his life at and around the University but hopes that the current generation will proceed with caution in these new surroundings.

"People will say the amenities have been definitely improved. It's true, except I get a little shiver when I hear somebody say well, you know, I'm never going to go outside Charles Commons — everything I need is there. Well, we might as well have the University functioning in otherwise unused dirigibles," he said.

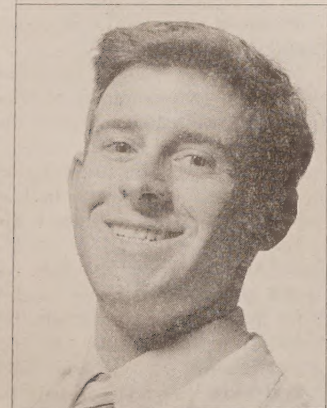
He bemoaned the fact that many students never attend the art museums or sports games or take advantage of the city's many other opportunities, and he hopes that the expansion of the University does not create isolation from Baltimore itself.

"I don't want to be a Pollyanna about Hopkins. There are a lot of things that worry me, a lot of priorities that aren't fully recognized, but I do think it allows people to change their minds. I hope that the students are going to walk outside, intellectually and physically."



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Macksey, a Hopkins graduate and longtime professor of the humanities, prefers to teach classes at his home.



COURTESY OF KEITH WELLER AND SONIA SARKAR

Kurt Herzer and Sonia Sarkar were recognized for their dedication to public service.

Students to be involved in new green ideas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
fund could sit unused if too few of the allotted funds were utilized. Because the academic divisions of Hopkins pay for activities and utilities on Homewood campus, and would reap the benefits of any cost savings, Bookhart noted that they would be the ones to identify funding for approved proposals.

Teran said that projects meeting SHIP requirements will be approved and immediately handed off to James McGill, senior vice president for finance and administration at Hopkins, who is committed to working with SHIP to find funding without taking money out of any predetermined University budgets.

"It's important to emphasize that this is not just a bunch of money sitting around waiting to be spent," Bookhart said.

He further emphasized the strong commitment Hopkins has made to supporting SHIP and its goals.

"It's a commitment for them to say, 'We already have a tight budget, but it's such a good idea and the long term ramifications of environmental stewardship are so good that we'll figure out a way to make it work.'"

For Teran, the most important aspect of SHIP will be its dependence on student involvement and student-generated ideas. Not only will students be encouraged to submit proposals, a process which Teran and Bookhart both

hope to make relatively painless, but the committee reviewing proposals will ideally be composed of both students and administrators in equal parts.

"Students are a really important part of this — what other universities don't have but we will have is at least an equal number of students on the board, if not a student majority," Teran said.

Bookhart expressed a similar opinion.

"I think that the board needs to be a pretty good mixture of administration people who have a certain amount of expertise in energy or utilities, so that they can help with the technical details of evaluation, and students," he said, adding that active student involvement would ideally be one of the program's major selling points.

Applications for SHIP committee positions should be available later this week.

Green groups on campus have been expressing their support of the initiative.

"It's a really great way to get students involved in projects that will help JHU meet its sustainability goals, by getting funding for ideas they have and want to implement. It will hopefully pull on the excitement created by the Green Idea Generator," said sophomore Julia Blocher, head of HEAT (Hopkins Energy Action Team).

Bookhart and Teran both noted that SHIP hopes to build

on the sustainability momentum already present at Hopkins thanks to the activities of the Green Idea Generator. At least two of the projects to emerge from that program will be eligible for funding under the terms of SHIP's goals and requirements.

Ultimately, according to Teran, SHIP should serve to involve students in promoting and encouraging sustainability at Hopkins, and giving sustainability issues priority on campus.

"Basically, it's fast-tracking sustainability so that it doesn't have to compete with other maintenance projects," he said.

Ideally, the formation and utilization of a committee to specifically assess proposals intended to retrofit and improve the campus in terms of sustainability and environmental responsibility will serve to set such proposals apart from the day-to-day maintenance proposals with which they would usually be clumped.

As with Harvard's Green Campus loan program, Teran hopes that the results of proposals implemented with SHIP funds will be made publicly available, in hopes of encouraging other institutions to implement similar programs.

"I'm inclined to say that our fund has the potential to outperform Harvard's loan fund because we don't have to wait for payback — we're able to constantly be engaging in new projects," Teran said.

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NEWS & FEATURES

Things I've Learned, with professor of Chinese Liman Lievens

By **LEAH MAINIERO**
News-Letter Staff Writer

A world traveler and Excellence in Teaching Award nominee, versed in six languages, Professor Liman Lievens settled at Hopkins to follow in her father's footsteps: to teach Mandarin Chinese.

The *News-Letter* spoke with Lievens about her travel experiences, her family life and her experience transitioning from Chinese to American culture.

News-Letter: Where were you born and where did you grow up?

Liman Lievens: I grew up in Taiwan, but my parents were from Beijing. They went to Taiwan and then couldn't go back because the civil war broke out. My father was originally assigned there to train Chinese language teachers because, under 15 years of Japanese occupation, most Chinese didn't speak Chinese anymore. Most people spoke Japanese, so they needed Chinese teach-

ers. My father came out of the Sino-Japanese War, and instead of being sent home, he was sent to Taiwan. They said it was only for two years, but it turned out to be 40 years, because the civil war broke and he couldn't go back any more.

N-L: What was your family life like there? Did you grow up with any brothers or sisters?

LL: I have two brothers, one sister, but now I don't have any family in Taiwan. In my own family now I have two sons and my husband. My husband used to work in foreign affairs for Belgium. He was a diplomat. We have traveled to many different places. So my sons were educated in many different places. They are very good at languages.

N-L: Where did you travel?

LL: Wherever my husband was stationed. We have been to China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and around Europe. My oldest son repeated first grade

three times: The first time was in Chinese, the second times was in Dutch and the third time was in French. When they reached university age, we decided to send them here for undergraduate and then they stayed here.

When my husband was assigned back to Belgium — he was going to retire — we decided to come here and join our children.

When we were stationed in Asia and the other countries, every summer I'd come here to teach one Chinese language course at SAIS. Then they asked me, "There's a position here at Homewood. Would you consider teaching here?" I said, "Of course," and that's how we ended up moving here.

N-L: How did you first become interested in your field of study?

LL: Like they say, it's a family business. I started as an undergraduate as a sort of intern, and I liked it so I stayed in that position. Also, my husband was in my class.

N-L: Is that how you met your husband? He was a student in your class?

LL: Yes, he was one of the better students of mine. He speaks very fluently.

N-L: You were stationed in many different countries with your husband before you came to Hopkins. Did you continue to teach before you came here?

LL: I tried to teach wherever he was stationed. At one time I was teaching at the National University in Singapore. They have a foreign language center, so many students came from all over the world, many through study abroad programs. That was fun.

Now with globalization, it means learning languages is important. I hope our students can know the language and also the culture that exists as well, that's the first step for globalization. We want our people here in the States to understand other people. Through this understanding, we build respect.

N-L: Did you pick up any other languages as you traveled?

LL: I speak French, Dutch and three different dialects of Chinese.

N-L: Every year, Chinese international influence grows. How have you seen this new focus on China affect the Chinese language program here at Hopkins?

LL: Well, when I came on board 12 or 13 years ago, we had almost 50 students. We were always worried, asking, is this enough to fill three sections? Now we have over 200 students in Chinese language, and I'm sure it will grow.

N-L: Do you foresee any changes in the program in the future?

LL: I hope. We have to improve so we can accommodate the great amount of students. Times are changing. We hope we can create more courses focusing on current issues. I would continue to teach Chinese language courses — that's what I'm good at.

N-L: Certainly understanding

other cultures is very important. What aspect of American culture did you have the most difficulty adapting to?

LL: Americans are the nicest people here on Earth! You can put it in the interview.

American people are really nice, it is a great nation, really, and it's sad to see that some people don't realize it and think this way, but it's true. My family has been traveling around many places. American people are open-minded, in general, compared with people in other countries. And they are not arrogant. Here they do not talk about tolerating people, they talk about respect. Here people are really nice.

N-L: What advice would you give students considering studying abroad in China, in terms of adapting to Chinese culture?

LL: Chinese are nice too; they like foreigners. If you have a basic, solid foundation of Chinese language, then you should be all right over there. Before you go, learn some Chinese here! I can put propaganda in this interview as well and advertise our program!

N-L: Your family here in the U.S., do they live in Baltimore?

LL: No, one of my sons is in New York, one is in Philadelphia. They are both doing computer business. We see each other a lot, which is nice. In fact, during spring break, I went to see them.

N-L: Do you enjoy teaching at the same school as your husband?

LL: Yes, yes. But these days it's a little tense because we are both nominated for the Excellence in



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Lievens talks about teaching her husband to speak Chinese.

Teaching Award. I received that award in the year 2000, and this year we are both nominated, so we will see.

N-L: And what happens if one of you wins?

LL: Oh, we will be happy of course. It's not a competition.

N-L: What special advice would you like to give to the 200-plus students enrolled in Chinese or to any student considering studying Chinese in the future?

LL: As complicated as the Chinese language is, what I can show you is only the tip of the iceberg. My mission here is to inspire my students and make them interested in this culture and this language, because language learning is a life-long process. I hope all of my students will continue learning and studying Chinese.

N-L: Are you currently doing any research or any other interesting academic work?

LL: I just took several courses in teaching Chinese as a second language, and I am writing a paper about it: "Learning Chinese as Second Language in the States." The paper will be written in Chinese.

SECURITY ALERTS

March 16 at 1:30 a.m. - Two graduate students walking along the 3500 block of St. Paul Street were robbed at gunpoint. The suspect, who could not be identified because he was wearing a ski mask, ran off with the wallet of one of the students. Campus security and Baltimore Police did not find the suspect, but a credit card from the stolen wallet was later used in a local gas station. Investigations are continuing.

March 17 between 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. - An undergraduate discovered he was robbed of \$250 after recovering a the wallet he had lost in a bathroom in the Levering Hall basement. Investigations are ongoing.

March 18 between 12:00 a.m. and 2:34 p.m. - A robber broke the front window of a car belonging to a JHMI graduate student. The thief made off with a GPS device and a textbook. Baltimore Police responded. The investigation is continuing. The car was parked on the 2900 block of North Charles Street.

March 19 between 8:00 p.m. and 8:20 p.m. - A laptop was stolen from the M-level of the MSE Library. It belonged to an undergraduate who left it unattended in a cubicle. Investigations are continuing.

March 20 at 3:45 a.m. - A suspicious person was observed attempting to enter a locked door on Clark Hall. As the non-affiliate walked north on the quad, he was given a trespass warning and escorted off campus.

March 22 at 2:34 a.m. - Security observed via closed circuit television a non-affiliate attempting to enter the Gatehouse, first through the door and then the ground level windows. The man was stopped, issued a trespassing warning and escorted off campus by an off-duty Baltimore police officer working for the University.

March 22 at 3:45 p.m. - A minor chemical spill happened on the ground floor of Krieger Hall after a mixture of chemicals splashed on the floor and began emitting smoke. The spill caused no injury or damage, and the fumes quickly dispersed. Hopkins safety officers and a city fire department ambulance responded to the spill.

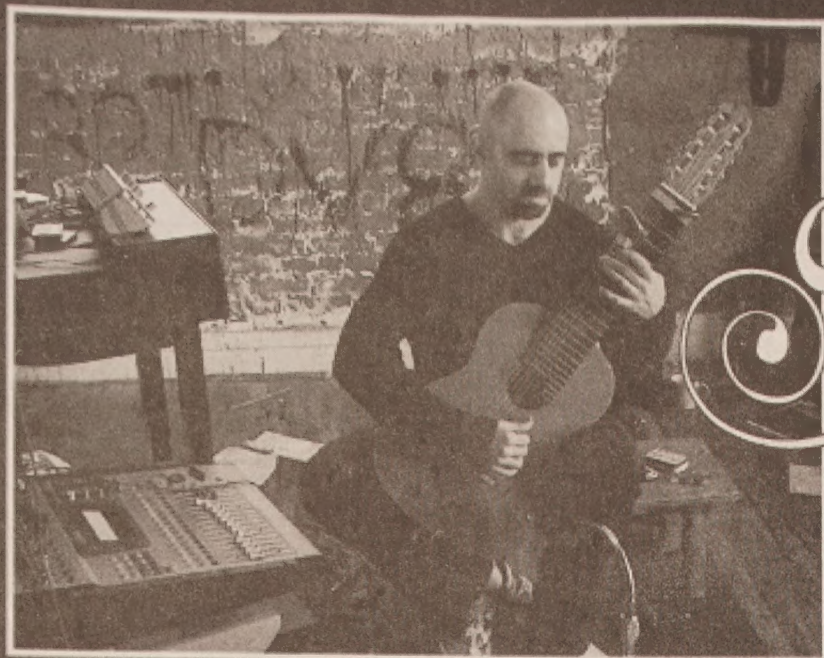


GOURMET BURRITO. (NOT AN OXYMORON)



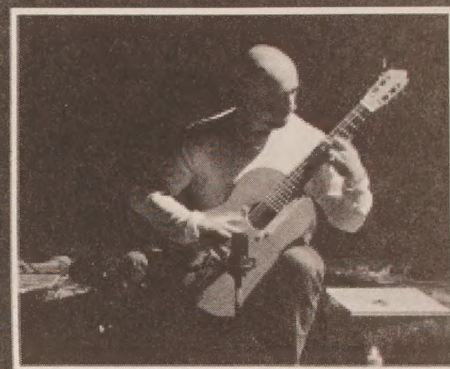
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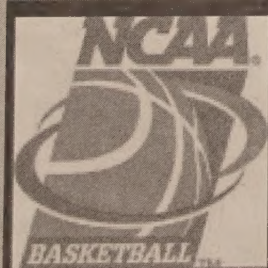
Saturday 3/29

Sunday 3/30

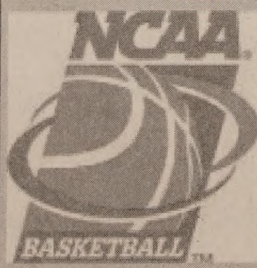
Monday 3/31

Tuesday 4/1

Wednesday 4/2



Washington State
vs.
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(7:15 pm)



Stanford
vs.
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(7:15 pm)

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Live!
8pm
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8pm
The Simpsons

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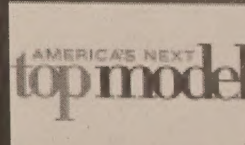


8pm
Gossip Girl



8pm
AMERICAN IDOL

9pm
Hell's Kitchen



8pm
America's Next Top Model

9pm
American Idol



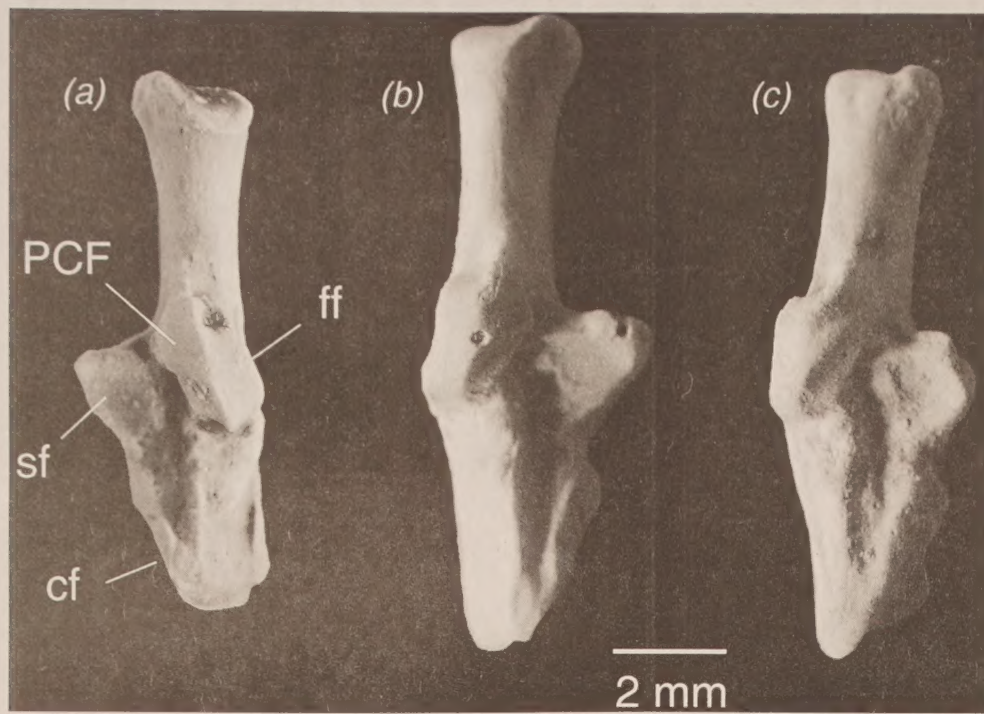
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NEWS & FEATURES

News In Brief



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Hopkins anatomy professor Kenneth Rose discovered 53-million-year-old rabbit bones in India, the oldest rabbit bones on record.

Anatomy professor helps in discovery of oldest known

Hopkins anatomy professor Kenneth Rose played an instrumental role in the discovery of the oldest known rabbit bones.

While on a fossil-hunting expedition several years ago in India, Rose and his team unearthed then-unidentified foot bones.

It was not until years later that Rose realized the resemblance between these bones and modern jack rabbit anatomy.

Previous research suggested that rabbits diverged from a lagomorph called the pika about 35 million years ago.

This finding was overturned when the Indian bones, which are dated at about 53 million

years old, were then compared with 48-million year-old Chinese rabbit fossils that had previously gone unreported.

Rose's team also found that although the Indian fossils do resemble pikas, the bones are more similar to those of rabbits because they exhibit specialized features.

The bones also highly resemble ankle and foot bones of modern-day jack rabbits.

Rose, a professor in the Center for Functional Anatomy and Evolution at the School of Medicine, and his team published the results of their study online in *Proceedings of the Royal Society*.

— Alex Vockroth

JHU library hosts map exhibit on Baltimore's growth

A new exhibit on display at the Milton S. Eisenhower Library features maps detailing Baltimore's growth from the mid-1800s century through the 20th century.

The selected maps show the development of the city's rail and trolley systems as well as early plans for Hopkins's East Baltimore and Homewood campuses.

The exhibit, called *Baltimore: A Cartographer's Delight*, contains some of the Sheridan Libraries' collection of over 215,000 maps.

Many of the collection's historical maps are now available on an online database at the library's Web site.

Cartographer's Delight is part of the Baltimore Festival of Maps. The Festival runs through early June and includes nearly 50 exhibitions, tours, performances, lectures and film screenings across the city.

The Sheridan Libraries' exhibition can be viewed on M-Level in the MSE Library until

Aug. 18.

— AV

Bloomberg school center takes steps to help homeless youths

The Bloomberg School of Public Health's Center for Adolescent Health is taking important steps toward alleviating problems associated with Baltimore's homeless youth population.

The Center recently issued a policy brief discussing the issues and potential solutions.

A major problem, experts say, is the lack of an accurate count of homeless teens.

Previous surveys garnered inconsistent results, and the 2007 Baltimore City Homeless Census does not to separate youths who are homeless with their families from those who are unaccompanied.

The Center hopes to determine a more accurate number of homeless teens in order to better help the population with health risks like depression, HIV and unwanted pregnancy.

The policy brief also recommends creating homeless services geared specifically toward youth and improving services available to teens coming out of foster care or juvenile justice facilities.

— AV

Some Ivy League schools reduce tuition hikes

Tuition increases at some Ivy League schools for the 2008-09 academic year will be less than those seen in the past several

years. Tuition, room and board charges at Harvard College will increase by 3.5 percent to \$47,215, the smallest jump seen in seven years.

Additionally, the College plans to increase the financial aid budget by 21.4 percent. Yale's increase will be even less: Their tuition, room and board costs will increase by only 2.2 percent next year.

Like Harvard, Yale recently announced a significant expansion to their financial aid services. The increase in fees at Princeton is somewhat higher, with a 3.9 percent rise to \$45,695.

As reported last week in the *News-Letter*, the price at Hopkins will experience a greater increase than these schools (5 percent).

According to the College Board, the total costs of attending private, four-year universities rose by an average of 5.9 percent for the 2007-08 academic year, which happened to be the same amount by which Hopkins's tuition increased this year.

— AV

Beehives stolen from Penn State laboratory

Entomologists at Penn State University were set back in their bee research upon the discovery that 150 beehives were stolen from a lab. The hives, valued at \$6,000 total, had been missing since the fall, but researchers assumed they were borrowed by colleagues.

But as preparations were made to fill the hives for the spring and the boxes were not returned, the incident was reported to the police.

The stolen beehives were vacant, but specialists at the University believe the thief was most likely someone familiar with the practice of beekeeping.

ing.

Similar thefts have occurred over the years, though they usually include the actual bees. The research teams have since obtained new hives with government grant funds.

The Penn State Police are continuing to investigate this crime.

Penn State has been considered a leader in the field of bee research since a scientist there discovered the phenomenon called Colony Collapse Disorder, in which worker bees in a hive suddenly disappear in large numbers.

— AV

Harvard not to admit transfer students for two years

Officials at Harvard College have decided not to accept any transfer admissions for the next two academic years due to space issues.

Though the deadline for transfers for next year was Feb. 15, those applicants will no longer be considered and will have their application fees refunded.

The school considered other options before resorting to this one, even hiring an architectural firm to analyze the College's 13 Houses to solve the overcrowding problem.

The College also accepted only 40 transfer students from an applicant pool of 1,100, a substantial decrease. In addition, the admissions office will also be accepting fewer students for the class of 2012 and wait-listing more to prevent exceeding the capacity of freshman dorms. School officials say the root of the problem is that freshman classes in recent years have been very large.

— AV






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The best tactics for choosing prophylactics

Condoms have been in use for over 500 years, with latex condoms first appearing in 1912. With such a noble history, its no surprise that there are many varieties to choose from in 2008. Condoms are generally considered the easiest and cheapest form of contraceptives among college students, though the gap between condoms and the No. 2 choice, birth control medication, is tightening.

There are three main areas of condom-culture that yield opinions from condom users: styles and textures, brands and sizes.

One female student I spoke to claimed that "most girls have a favorite — and not just a favorite brand. They have a specific favorite type, with all five adjectives or whatever. We're all picky, but you usually don't hear about it because it's too much work to find specific condoms when you're a dumb guy." Sadly, this seems to be true. Too many college students settle for the most accessible and cheapest options, but there is certainly something to be said for the upscale, fancy types as well.

It's unfortunate that the size determination issue is not more frequently addressed. The vast majority of condoms are generally the same size, but Trojan makes Magnum and Magnum XL sizes, and Durex makes an XXL version. Magnum ones aren't that much longer than a regular condom, but they are wider. Magnum XL, however, increase both the length and diameter of the condom — 30 percent larger, according to their Web site. Durex's XL also increases both size and length.

The differences which are often discussed, debated and sometimes argued about are the various brands. Nine out of the 11 people I spoke to mentioned their hatred for Lifestyles, unprompted. However, they are still used frequently, especially on college campuses, since they're cheap at drugstores and free at some clinics and in the dorms.

The Durex-Trojan debate can get pretty hot. Everything from the shape to the chemical composition of lubrication is up for discussion. Of the same 11 people, five were for Durex, and another

five for Trojan. One student struck out on a limb and expressed a preference for Kimono. And as the expert, I cast my vote vehemently for Durex, which leaves us with a clear cut victory over Trojan's supposed monopoly.

The next issue that comes up are the styles. Ribbed? Studded? Twister? They all have fans, they all have enemies. Both Trojan and Durex have a variety of products, most available in either brand. Both studs and ribbing are popular, especially Durex's pleasure-max, which has both. Twisted styles are considered either painful or people's favorite; there doesn't seem to be a middle ground.

One of the most popular types of non-textured condoms are those with warming lubricants. Thin or extra-thin condoms are also popular. However, these "plain" condoms raise some issues. "The non-textured ones dry really fast. They're

also just not that interesting," said one student, outlining two very valid and concerning problems.

The general consensus is to stay away from the "performance-enhancing" condoms which contain chemicals to lessen sensation so guys can last longer.

One of the rarer issues you encounter, but still a valid one, is that of latex allergies. Your options are the natural condoms, which have higher risk rates for both diseases and pregnancy, or Polyurethane. However, the latter have very few fans — most girls or guys with latex allergies just find safe partners and rely on oral contraceptives. One student I spoke with, who is allergic to latex, said, "In general condoms have been a big headache. That in mind, I generally don't use condoms. Instead, I find a partner that I know that I can trust and go raw with, without worrying about diseases." Seems reasonable, and as long as you're safe, it can be done.

Another student summed up the basic principle of condom selection pretty well: "A condom is a condom. I just figure if I'm gonna buy a box I might as well buy some that seem interesting."

Please send your questions to grace.henry@jhunewsletter.com.



Grace Gwendolyn Henry
That's What She Said

Going to the "core" of a strong, healthy back

Examine how you are sitting right now. Are your shoulders hunched over? Is your head cocked to one side?

Most people do these things naturally without even being aware of it. By becoming more conscious of your posture and strengthening your core you can prevent back problems down the road.

Your mother probably told you not to slouch when you were a kid, and, once again, she was right. Sitting in front of a computer for hours each day or being hunched over in an uncomfortable chair for a three-hour class can eventually do some serious damage.

Statistics have shown that four out of five Americans will experience back pain at some time during their life. Lower back pain is often the result of weakness in the core muscles due to poor posture, improper movements and lack of flexibility or balance.

The core consists of all the muscles in your abdominal and lower back areas. The core muscles include the rectus abdominus, internal and external obliques, transverse abdominus, intercostals, the erector spinae and the iliopsoas (commonly known as hip flexors). These muscles work in unison to provide balance, stabilization and the ability to transfer power throughout the body.

Think of all the activities you do in daily life that require a strong core — dancing, throwing, bending down to tie your shoes and even climbing into bed at night. Everyone can benefit from core training, no matter what your fitness background, age, or limitations.

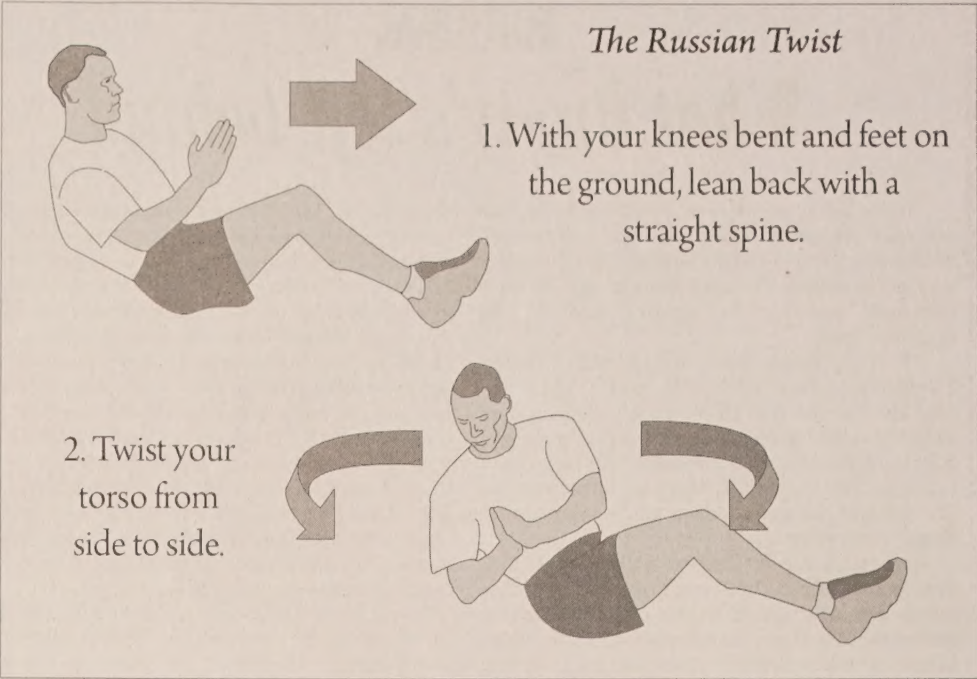
Johns Hopkins Medicine recently released a health alert that contained great exercises and stretches for the lower back that help promote flexibility.

The Knee Pull

To start, lie on your back and pull both knees into your chest. Then, hold one knee into your chest as you extend the opposite leg and switch. Never force a stretch — try to focus on your breathing and your muscles will relax. Inhale deeply as you draw your knee into your chest, and exhale as you gently pull it closer and extend the leg back down.

The Crunch

When people think of core training, they often associate it with six-pack abs or a flat stomach. It's important not to confuse these physical aspects with a



MATT HANSEN/GRAPHICS EDITOR

"strong" core. A core training routine should target all the muscles of the core to promote balance.

But while doing 300 crunches every night is doing something for you, it's not the most efficient way to strengthen the core. A simple, 10-minute ab routine can be mixed into your daily workouts.

Start with the basic crunch to target your upper abdominals. Be sure to add a quick pause at the top of the contraction and lower back down slowly, allowing each vertebra to roll down gently as you keep your abs tight.

It's easiest to start with your own body weight and complete basic movements properly before you begin to add resistance and more challenging exercises.

The Leg Lift

To target your lower abs, try leg lifts. While lying down on your back, keep your legs straight and raise them towards the ceiling. Slowly lower both legs until they hover just above the ground and then use your lower abs to pull them back into the starting position. Be careful not to go let your legs go down so far that your lower back begins to arch. Keep your abs tensed through the entire movement.

The Russian Twist

For the obliques, do the Rus-

sian twist: With your knees bent and feet on the ground, lean back with a straight spine until you feel tension in your abs. Then twist your torso from side to side.

The Plank

To isolate the core muscles and tap into the deep transverse abdominals, perform a plank. Go into a push-up position but place your forearms on the floor. Hold this position for one minute or more. Be sure not to let your hips dip or back arch.

The Prone Back Extension

While all the above exercises work the abdominals, don't forget to always work the opposing muscle group — in this case that means the erector spinae. Many cases of lower back pain and injury result from over-training the abs and lack of strength training for the lower back muscles.

A simple exercise to perform is the prone back extension. While lying on your stomach with your arms and toes pointed away from you, lift your shoulders, thighs and knees off the floor so your body is in the shape of a boat. Squeeze at the top of the contraction for a second, slowly lower back down and repeat.

Stretching

Having a strong core is not the only answer to a healthy spine — these muscles must also be flexible. Stretch your lower back

muscles and abs daily because these muscles are constantly hard at work with every move you make.

Your mom may have been right about not slouching, but maybe not when she told you to "sit still." It's actually better for your back if you rebel against this advice. Try to stretch when you've been sitting in the same position for an extended period of time. Lower back stretches can even be done while at your desk or in class. Rolling your shoulders up and down can ease tension, plus even these small controlled movements can energize you by increasing the oxygen to your brain which will help you stay focused.

Another great seated lower back stretch can be done by extending your legs straight out in front of you and leaning forward while keeping a straight spine. You will feel this stretch not only in your lower back, but also in your hamstrings. Keeping your hamstrings loose is important to a healthy back because tight hamstrings can pull your body out of proper alignment and directly impact the muscles of your lower back.

We all know that carrying heavy textbooks and sitting in long lectures is taxing, but who knew it could be detrimental to your health? By strengthening and stretching your core, you will build a stronger body that can help in all movements. Think of it as training your body for daily life. Being conscious of your posture and movements is the first step towards a healthier back, so listen to mom and don't slouch!

Kelly Gonzalez can be reached at KellyGFitness9@yahoo.com.



Kelly Gonzalez
Busy Bodies

Shining a light on the fading fad of sunglasses at night

It may be the first week back from spring break, but play along with me for a minute. Rack your brain and try and think — easier said than done, I know.

Have you ever seen someone wearing sunglasses at night?

Have you ever looked at that person and thought: What a douchebag.

Or perhaps it was you wearing the sunglasses under the moon?

As the sun sets, the sunglasses are lifted up and placed on top the head, a sort of useless accessory; for the overconfident (or high) the sunglasses don't move.

When was the last time you saw U2's Bono without his sun-

glasses? "Rock star with them on ... ordinary bloke without them," are the man's own words on the subject. As consumers, we look to celebrities for these tips and trends.

It's hard, but think back a bit further. Remember those days when the chic women's sunglasses were those gigantic bug-eyed monstrosities? I see the image of Victoria Beckham at the 2006 World Cup, sporting a pair of sunglasses that covered nearly half of her face.

Thankfully, the frame sizes have decreased a bit since then. The point is that trends in eyewear are, for the most part, a bit odd and unappealing.

But when you finally come around to them, these trends are already withering.

This seems to be the case with the trend of sunglasses at night.

For the everyday fashionista, throwing on a pair of big sunglasses is the easiest way to display your good taste and style. Tinted lenses also give the wearer a sense of mystery and a boost of

confidence.

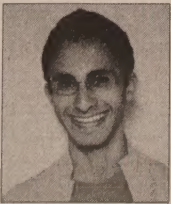
Moreover, you can tell many things about a person, and who they're trying to be, from their sunglasses.

It's also common for fashion editors and critics to push up their expensive designer eyewear while at a fashion show. So it's not really that surprising to see hip college students clinging to their sunglasses late into the night.

The market for sunglasses is booming as well. Be it cheap New York City knock-offs, clothing retailers like H&M and American Eagle to the luxurious and very expensive Chanel sunglasses, a shopper can find anything he or she is looking for.

Interestingly enough, Tag Heuer recently released their "Night Vision" glasses for public sale. These are engineered to brighten up the nighttime by enhancing contrasts and reducing glare. Originally made for the 24 Hours of Le Mans endurance race, people now actually have a real reason to wear these sunglasses at night.

But it seems more a fad than



Siavash Raigani
Hop Couture



COURTESY OF HHTP://BLOG.PENNIVE.COM
Bono is known for wearing flashy sunglasses.

a trend. Wearing sunglasses at night is propelled by things like Facebook groups bearing the title "I Wear Sunglasses at Night because the Sun Never Sets on a Bad Ass" and Bono-like celebrities.

The fad does seem to be losing ground however. Perhaps sunglasses were only meant to be worn by the beach, or at the least, under the sun. It's too soon to confirm, but it wouldn't be a bad idea to look for a new trend.

Remember when rapper Nelly had that BandAid on his cheek? We all thought that was pretty cool too.

Siavash Raigani can be reached at siavash.raigani@jhunewsletter.com.



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THE JOHNS HOPKINS

NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

What Brody's left behind

During his 12-year tenure, President Brody has overseen immense growth in the University's endowment, improved undergraduate education, worked to enhance student life and significantly increased security on campus and in the neighborhood.

All of his efforts have dramatically elevated Hopkins's stature nationally and internationally. He was the first Hopkins president in over 20 years to live on Homewood campus and arguably the most accessible president this university has seen. Several issues, however, have been neglected and these should be made priorities by Brody's successor.

First of all, Brody, the rest of the administration and the Board of Trustees should move towards full divestment from companies that do business with the Sudanese government. Hopkins must take a definitive stand when its money could potentially be fueling a government that is committing genocide upon its own people. For this reason it is unacceptable for Brody to skirt questions about Sudan divestment and call it a "non-issue." Hopkins must follow in the footsteps of the dozens of universities that have already divested — it is regrettable that Hopkins has not already done so.

In a related issue, the University must have more transparency regarding its endowment. Students, their families, alumni, faculty, staff and donors — as well as anyone interested in attending Hopkins — all deserve to know how the University's money is being allocated and invested. Most of our "peer" universities have taken it upon themselves to increase the transparency of their endowments. Hopkins would be more accountable for their decisions with increased transparency, which would foster a stronger relationship between the University and all those connected with it.

Furthermore, despite Brody's efforts to increase financial aid, he has not done enough to curb the University's skyrocketing tuition, room and

board prices. Middle-class students have been hit hard by Hopkins's rising costs, as they often do not qualify for financial aid, yet scrape by to pay full tuition. The University has not done enough to address their needs. Tuition cannot continue to increase faster than the rate of inflation; if Hopkins must allocate more of its endowment toward keeping tuition down, then so be it. Brody has indeed been a prolific fundraiser, but he must now set the stage for his successor to focus on building endowment funds that can be used to make the Hopkins education more affordable. This should be the overarching goal of the next long-term fundraising campaign, because too many students are incurring astronomical debts that will take decades to pay off.

We are glad that Brody has shown an interest in reducing the University's footprint on the environment. However, we want to see the administration collaborate more with students and take more concrete steps towards becoming more environmentally friendly. Hopkins must recognize that environmental sustainability is a long-term, constantly evolving project, and one that is easily stymied by bureaucratic gridlock. Outsourcing the work of reducing our carbon footprint to aloof administrative committees will not do. The University must articulate far-reaching goals, and build a broad coalition of student support to achieve them.

Brody has done much in his 12 years at Hopkins; he is clearly capable of mobilizing different groups of people and convincing them of what must be accomplished for the sake of the University.

This page hopes that through the end of his term in December, Brody will reflect on what he has not yet accomplished and use all of the skills and resources at his disposal to ensure that his legacy is one of which we can all be proud. Brody may be entering the twilight of his career, but he now has a rare opportunity to help shape the University's overarching priorities in the years to come. We hope he takes it.

A sinking SHIP

A sustainability fund would have been a major accomplishment for the Hopkins community. The energy-saving measure would have eased University investment in a greener campus. The result would be two-fold: The University's energy expenditures would decrease and it would positively impact this campus.

Harvard University pioneered such an initiative in 2000, which ended up saving Harvard \$3,847,587 per year. Earlier this year it appeared that certain steps were being taken to implement the fund, but with a meeting held just before spring break, the administration drastically changed the initiative.

A divergence from the Harvard program is not necessarily a negative move. What may have been successful at Harvard may not work at Hopkins. This page has no problem with the University implementing a program that differs in execution but has equitable or better results than Harvard.

The initiative, which will now be called the Sustainable Hopkins Infrastructure Program (SHIP), was initially offered to Student Council and the rest of the student body as a loan program that would have a pool of capital, this pool would fund student-initiated programs to make Hopkins more environmentally sound.

This was the plan that the Council voted on, but when reviewing the initiative, the administration, with minimal input from student body representatives, dramatically altered the project. Now individual departments will have to raise the funds to pursue green projects.

The reason offered by the administration for this change was that creating a pool of funds, as

the Harvard initiative does, would not be fitting for Hopkins's constrained budget.

We acknowledge that money is an issue, as it always is. The intention of this initiative is to save money. However, investing a little bit of the University's funds today will save it money later. Under this new SHIP there is little institutional guarantee that enough funds will be there for investment in green reforms.

The University should look into ways to make sure that the appropriate funds will be provided each year.

One of the most important aspects of this program is its reliance on student involvement. At the moment, it appears that SHIP does this, but it is disconcerting that the administration has changed the program so much from the initial one supported by the student representative body.

For that reason SHIP should go back to the Student Council General Assembly for a vote of confidence before any further actions are taken.

Furthermore, the initiative is susceptible to being bogged down in bureaucracy. Under SHIP the green initiatives will go through committees with the intent to ease the process of funding these green programs, as opposed to the process for general maintenance. However, Hopkins's understanding of committees rarely has meant streamlining. Committees are often where good ideas go to die. Bureaucracy should not get in the way of innovation, and innovation is exactly what this program should be about.

The University must make sure that this green initiative is streamlined and that it will always have direct student involvement.

The most basic creed

It's heartening to see that at least some in the medical community have decided to take a stand against cruel and unethical practices that violate the physicians' most basic creed: Do no harm.

The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) staged a small protest Wednesday in front of the Hopkins School of Medicine, which remains one of only 10 (soon to be nine) medical schools in the country that still use live pigs for surgery practice.

The vast majority of medical schools have renounced the practice, and the consensus in the medical community is that the practice is unnecessary, outdated and wrong. And yet the School of Medicine has clung stubbornly to this cruel and archaic tradition, sustained by the thoroughly outdated belief that practicing surgery on live animals has some genuine educational value. It does not.

The vast majority of medical institutions use simulators or human cadavers instead, which are more accurate rehearsals for the experience of operating on human patients. And surgical students get the bulk of their practical training when they become residents and fellows, so what little educational value operating on live animals may have is irrelevant in the course of their career.

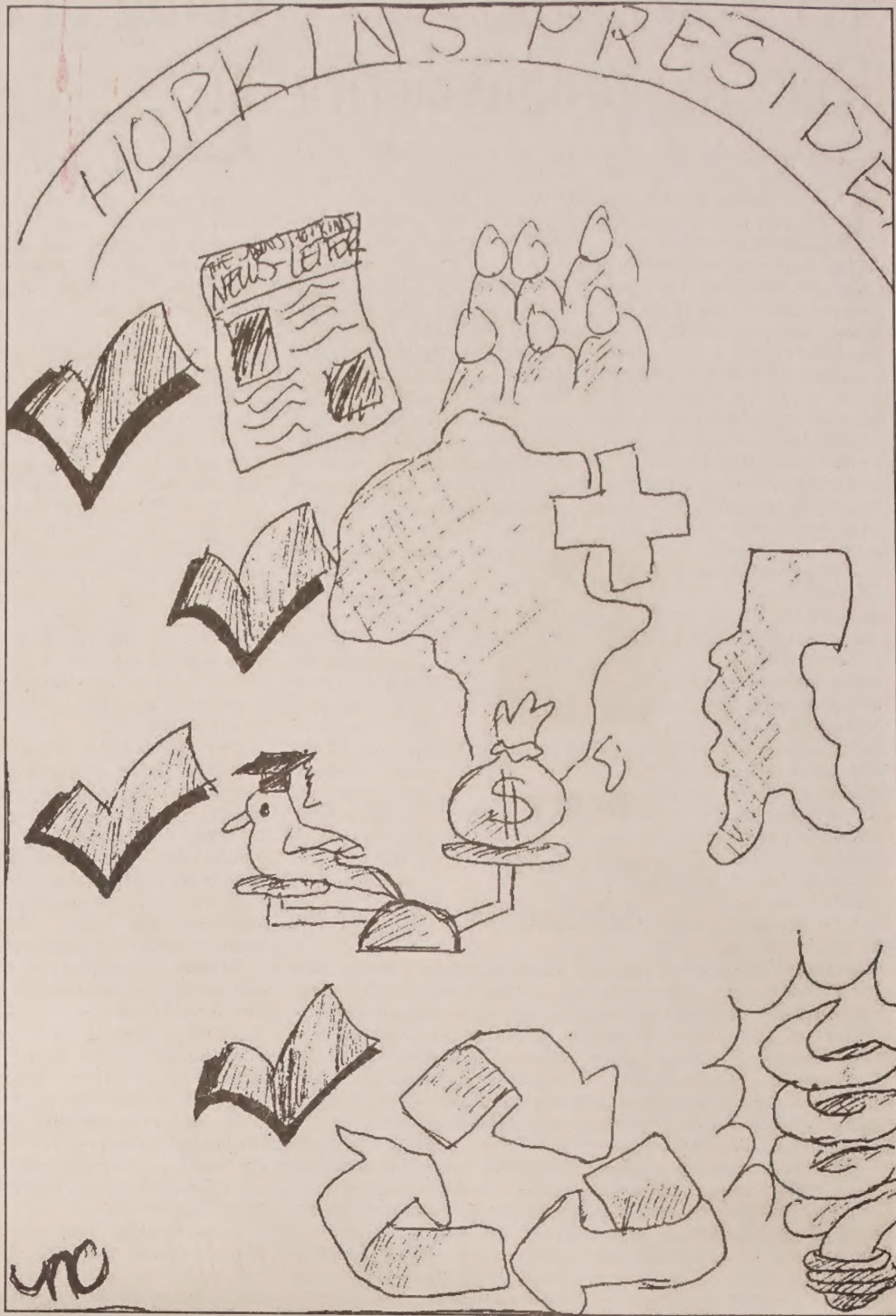
It certainly isn't worth the needless deaths that

this practice requires. The pigs are purchased and delivered for the express purpose of surgical training, anaesthetized, operated on and discarded when they are no longer useful. The surgery is not beneficial to the pigs in anyway and, to put it bluntly, pointless.

It is also ethically indefensible, and perhaps that's why the School of Medicine has chosen not to actively defend it. Their obstinate refusal to consider the objections raised by professional organizations such as PCRM, and to explain the perceived necessity of their actions to media organizations such as the *News-Letter*, says more about the damning ethical implications of their policy than words ever could.

PCRM has mounted an organized campaign to challenge the University's live-animal policy, and we commend them for their efforts. We urge Hopkins medical students to contact them through their animal-abuse hotline and report their objections to the practice. And we call on the School of Medicine, again, to join the broad professional consensus in the medical community and abandon this cruel and outdated practice. Failure to do so would marginalize Hopkins, currently a leader in the medical community, for its embrace of plainly unethical practices. It would also be a violation of the physician's most basic creed.

Natachi Chukumerije



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THE JOHNS HOPKINS

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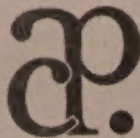
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OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

Rooting for the underdog

By DAVE SNYDER



LAUREN SCHWARTZMAN/GRAPHICS STAFF

It's the most wonderful time of the year. It's not because it's spring, Easter or even spring break. Nay, this is the most wonderful time of the year because of March Madness ... unless you don't like college basketball, but I mean come on! I don't profess to be a very big college basketball fan myself; I really only follow it when it comes to be tournament time, for the simple reason that it's so damn exciting.

Even better is the fact that the starting date of the tournament (and consequently, a large portion of the games, since the first round is the largest) often tends to coincide with spring break, as it did this year. What better way to spend spring break than parked on the couch watching college basketball? Except for going to the beach, or Vegas, or somewhere equally as sunny and exciting ... but I digress.

As it happened this year, both the first round and second round games fell over the course of the last weekend of spring break, meaning that there were 48 basketball games (out of 63 total throughout the course of the tournament) over the course of Thursday through Sunday. That averages to 12 games a day. And with each game being about two hours long, you could say it averages out to having a game on constantly. Unfortunately this isn't the case, but it sure sounds fun doesn't it?

I should also note that March Madness this year lasts from March 20 until April 7, so for all of you who still think that December's sequence of Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa or what have you, is a better time of year, remember that March Madness lasts for 19 days this year.

One of the real surprises in the first round occurred when an upstart David-

Dave Snyder is a senior political science major from Towson, Md.

son team, led by the amazing Stephen Curry (who's put up 70 points over the first two games of the tournament), upset perennial favorite Gonzaga. Davidson then went on shock the No. 2-seeded Georgetown in the second round and is now poised to take on the No. 1 seed Kansas for a spot in the Final Four.

Could Davidson be this year's version of George Mason from two years ago? We'll have to keep watching to find out, but they've had an exciting run this far. And isn't rooting for the underdog in our nature anyway? I think the Final Four (or any sport for that matter) wouldn't be nearly as exciting if the teams who were supposed to win all the time actually did so. Just think back to this year's Super Bowl (and this is where half of my readers get livid and the other half smile

in agreement) and how exciting it was when the underdog won.

This is the kind of stuff for which people watch sports. It's drama without the writers. There tend to be two exceptions in this case. One is if your team is the sports superpower and beating everybody (if the Ravens go 19-0 this year, I won't be rooting for the underdog). The other is the bandwagon effect: Some fairweather fans tend to root for teams just because the team is always good (I'm looking at you, new Red Sox and Patriots fans). But usually, when David(son), goes up against Goliath we tend to root for David.

March Madness exhibits NCAA athletics at their finest, and it is primarily because of the uncertainty and the living day-to-day mentality that has to be adopted by every team in the tournament and

every fan of the game.

One of the other great upsets was Western Kentucky over Drake. Despite my hope that Drake would beat WKU, I must say that the last play of the game was perhaps my favorite moment of the tournament thus far (aside from Duke going out in the second round). With only seconds left on the clock, down by two, and the ball in their possession, WKU needed an amazing and successful inbound play in order to pull off the upset. They inbounded to Tyrone Brazleton, who crossed half-court and made to drive the lane.

However, instead of doing so, he dished a pass outside of the three-point arc to Ty Rogers, who shot the game-winning three-pointer over the hands of three outstretched Drake players. While it busted my bracket in a sense, I still contend that this has been the play of the tournament thus far.

I think it's safe to say that we are in for two more exciting weeks, especially as the offensive powerhouse of UNC (who's scored over 100 points in each of their first two games) takes on the stalwart defensive squad of Washington State (who has held opponents to the fewest point totals of the tournament thus far) in the next round. And will Memphis be the first #1 seed to fall, after a lackluster showing against a mediocre Mississippi State team? For now I think it's safe to remain on the couch enjoying the most wonderful time of the year.

A world of necessary evils

By DYLAN DIGGS

In this world there exist certain necessary evils that we must accept. War is one of these. It is vicious and evil, what we must do at times to fight a greater evil. Yet war can produce good: it can save nations and lives, or dispense justice, for moral reasons, for political or economic security or as a deterrent.

Abortion is another necessary evil. If one considers a single-celled organism a life, albeit not human, one must agree that fetus is also a life. Not only is a fetus a life, but it is just the first of the many stages of life. In a way, a fetus is simply a stage of human development, not unlike a six-year-old child, despite the fact that humans are not fully developed until their early 20s. But few want to go back to the days of back-alley abortions, so abortions must continue as a necessary evil in our society for the moment.

Still we should not only work to make the operation few and far between, but we must take care of the unloved young lives that do make it out of the womb by improving orphanages, strengthening adoptions, making all education first-class and providing children with health care.

There is another necessary evil: government. Government is an entity born from the evil of men. It exists to restrain men and women from themselves.

This restraint is the necessary evil. It restricts our freedom and takes earned money and distributes it for other means. Because government is a necessary evil, not unlike abortion or war, it should be used sparingly. But, like war, government can and should be used for good.

I'm a conservative who believes that government can be both limited and proactive. Government can be a tool to help society progress but at the same time maintain an independent civil society.

Education is a necessary investment. I believe the main tenet of Republicanism since William Henry Harrison and conservatism since Reagan is individual self-empowerment. It relies on the axiom, "give a man to fish, and he'll eat for a day, teach a man to fish, and he'll eat for a lifetime."

Rather than dealing with individuals when they're on welfare or throwing them in jail, maybe we should consider investing in them when they are young. We need to trust and love children, but we need to verify that they are in fact learning. We must do this, not only by investing money, which goes into strengthening a defunct bureaucracy, but investing in structural reform.

Only by fixing the structural aspects of our public school systems will our money be put to good use. When we have developed an educated and competent workforce, a strong and innovative economy will result. Our education system currently exists as fit for the industrial age, while in a post-industrial economy. Our public and private leaders, the citizenship and civil society groups must have an honest and proactive discussion over the next few years about how we will update such a system.

Our nation must be open to the possibility of completely tearing down the existing public education bureaucracy and creating something completely new. Complete privatization is not a solution to our education problems. Because America has committed to democratic governance, which is reliant on an educated population, all legal American citizens have a right to an education. It is the right of democratic peoples. For the benefit of our society we must ensure *quality* education: For that reason, merit pay, school choice and competitions should be included in the discussion for reform.

Key to establishing an educated America for the 21st century is higher education. America has some of the best institutions of higher learning in this world, but our community colleges leave much to be desired. There are so many individuals who may never be able to afford or have the academic opportunities to go to the top universities. That does not mean they should be bereft of a quality higher education that can teach critical trades that can benefit them in the workplace.

There are many way to strengthen community colleges. One is offering tax rebates to academics and professionals who teach at community colleges. We will also need to increase funding, including targets for info-tech job training.

Reforming education from kindergarten through college will not be an easy task — neither was defeating the Nazis or Soviets, splitting the atom or landing a man on the Moon. Our nation will need a similar mobilized effort that is focused on achieving results. No one party or element of government can come up with a solution, but we must begin the dialogue now, before time runs out.

Dylan Diggs is a senior political science major from Mount Airy, Md. and the News-Letter Opinions Editor.

A fresh start for Student Council

By EVAN LAZEROWITZ

This weekend, students will vote on a new Student Council constitution. While it may be easy to dismiss both Student Council and this constitution as irrelevant to your daily life, many of the changes in it will have a direct impact upon the student body.

We have not done a very good job of communicating exactly what we do on the campus over the past few years. The result has been utter apathy towards student government, beyond the occasional election.

This new constitution seeks to change the way Student Council operates, in order to better serve the student body. As one of the drafters of this constitution, I would like to highlight some of the most important changes in the new constitution and explain why passing it will result in positive, meaningful change.

The current constitution, written four years ago, is full of inconsistencies, and makes it very difficult to get things done. Worse, we have been forced to ignore parts of the current constitution because they are no longer relevant, worded in a confusing manner or simply counter-productive.

The current setup results in what is best described as "class gridlock." Basically, the current system creates a sys-

tem where individual class years are discouraged from working with one another to address many issues facing the student body. In addition, input from regular students is rarely sought or required.

The result is a disjointed Student Council, with well-meaning members, but a Constitution that prevents us from effectively operating. With all of this in mind, we created a new constitution to fix some major structural issues.

First off, the most visible change is replacing the name "Student Council" with Student Government Association (SGA). The "StuCo" moniker was very much reminiscent of a high school mentality and thus incompatible with the very serious nature of a student governing body.

The new SGA is composed of a legislative, executive and judicial branch, all of which have specific functions. One major change that will directly benefit students is the requirement that all Senate committees that deal with student life-related issues are required to have appointed student members. This will allow interested students the opportunity to have their voices heard, and will allow the SGA to be more responsive to student concerns.

Moreover, senators will no longer be elected to a committee. Instead, the top six senatorial candidates per class

are elected and are later sorted into committees of their choice. This important change ensures a diversity of viewpoints among the different committees.

We have created three committees specifically to deal with student life concerns, and then three "internal" committees that deal with finance, student groups and SGA reform. We also added an independent judicial branch, which will resolve disputes between student groups, determine the constitutionality of SGA actions and serve as a court of appeal for election-related matters.

In order to turn the SGA into a body representative of all students, not simply a single class, we eliminated two positions per class, vice president and secretary/treasurer, turning them into Senators. With our new vision of a SGA that truly deals with important issues affecting the entire school, not just a single class, the VP and secretary positions are not needed, as they represent the wrong approach to student government.

We have also consolidated the two executive vice-presidential positions into a single position, which will result in a more responsive executive branch. Again, while many of these changes are technical in nature, their overall result is to create an SGA that effectively represents the students to the administra-

tion.

While social events are an important part of campus life, the SGA is not, nor should it be a party planning committee. We have many other bodies such as the Hopkins Organization for Programming, and it is our job to ensure that they provide a varied social program.

I encourage all students to read over the new constitution, which is available on the Student Council Web site (<http://stuco.jhu.edu>). It will be e-mailed out to all students soon for review before voting.

While these changes may appear to be very technical, we hope that they will allow the new SGA a fresh start in representing its students.

Even the *News-Letter*, which has been (rightfully) critical of Student Council in recent years, has endorsed this constitution, because they see it as a step in the right direction. In the past two years, we have been gradually working to better represent the students. I urge you to pass this new constitution, so that finally, student government can start addressing the very serious issues facing the student body.

Evan Lazerowitz is a sophomore International Studies major from Franklin Lakes, N.J. and currently serves on the Student Council as the senator for legislation for the class of 2010.

Jackie Huang

The kindness of strangers on the information superhighway

I have a problem: I am addicted to the Internet. My computer is constantly on, my Gmail notifier is consistently checking for new e-mails, and I honestly believe that if I could tear myself away from Facebook I'd be an A+ student. This sudden revelation came to me this morning, and I vowed that today, I would change. "No more fooling around!" I told myself optimistically. "I'm going to go home today and study."

Unfortunately, when I got back from class today, I turned on my computer. "But I'm not giving in," I managed to convince myself. "I'm just going to check my e-mail." And then I checked at least seven more sites of interest (Facebook included, obviously) before I finally settled on one.

I figured I would finish reading it quickly and be able to take a nap, rejuvenated and ready to work. Oh, how wrong I was! The thread I'd happened to stumble upon turned out to be more fixating than anything I had read (in the last two days, at least).

A California man had posted on a

car forum that he'd found a brand-new BMW on eBay offered by a Nebraska dealership for about \$6,000 under the manufacturer's suggested retail price. This was the kind of deal he couldn't pass up, especially considering that he in the search for just that car. Plus, the car usually ended up fetching 20 to 30 thousand over the MSRP when fully-loaded just as this one came. So he put in the first bid, and ended up winning.

A dream situation, right? Not so much. Fifteen minutes after the auction closed, a representative from the dealership called. They'd made a "mistake" and wouldn't sell it to him anymore. It was obvious to most that there was no mistake, and that they simply wanted more for the car.

Within three days, the thread had expanded to 40 pages, over 800 posts, over three hundred thousand views — and counting. It ended up on numerous automotive Web sites and even a pro-consumer blog with nearly 500,000 hits a day.

On top of all the negative press the dealership was generating, more dirt was being dug up: One poster dug up evidence of possible "shill bidding," or bidding in order to mark up the price on an item, by the dealership on other

auctions. Another looked up the complaints made to the Better Business Bureau about the dealership and found a lot of unsatisfied customers. Most readers agreed that the original poster was indeed in the right, and wanted him to get his car for the price that had been originally agreed upon.

The thing that amazed me the most about the whole situation was not the frenzy that ensued, but instead the amazing compassion of strangers.

People in the area offered to go check on the car, while people all over the globe offered their sympathies and advice. Some called or e-mailed the dealership, giving them a glimpse of how outraged people were about their "mistake." And many took the time to forward it to their friends, e-mail other Web sites or call local news stations — all in the interest of one man and the "stealership" that tried to back their way out of the deal.

Finally, the dealership caved. They agreed to honor the price listed, and pending some agreements, the consumer came out on top. Congratulations were given from all corners of the world. And unfortunately for that particular dealership, their reputation has suffered immensely.

Jackie Huang is a freshman biology major from Silicon Valley, Calif.

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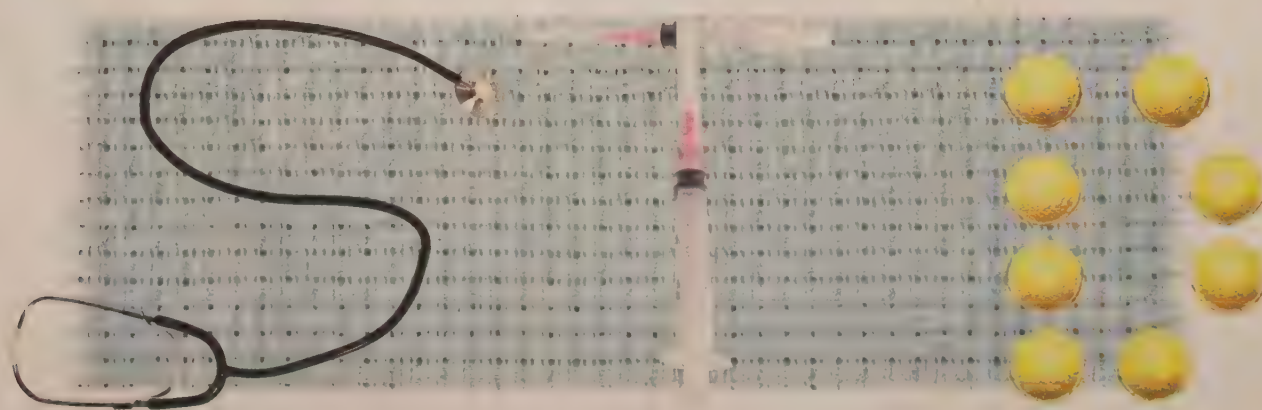
Arts & Entertainment • Science & Technology • Your News-Letter • Cartoons • Calendar • Sports

MARCH 27, 2008



By MARY DOMAN
Sports Editor

The women of the Hopkins women's rugby team play even harder than they work. And, as most study-addicts here know, that has to be really, really, really hard. When was the last time you left the library covered in blood and dirt?
CONTINUED ON PAGE B10



Sexually transmitted diseases have long been a subject steeped in shame and reticence. Now, a new classification as “sexually transmitted infections” and a revelatory study calling into question long-held assumptions regarding their prevalence are opening up channels of communication and, more slowly, acceptance.

Read more in our Science section, page B7.



treatment



prevention



awareness

CALENDAR MARCH 27 - APRIL 2

MAR.
27

The Raveonettes set to rock Ottobar

The retro-style Raveonettes are doing big things: instead of deconstructing music to its fullest in order to be 'original' and 'inventive,' they are looking to the past; in particular, 1950s rock and roll. Further drawing from musical history, they also readily admit to having created their name partly from the Buddy Holly song "Rave On."

But the Raveonettes are sure to make a name of their own, if their recent past is any harbinger of the future. The Danish duo, comprised of Sune Rose Wagner (on guitar and vocals) and Sharin Foo (on bass and vocals), have essentially turned the roots of rock into lurid, provocative sounds that tempt listeners. With an off-kilter, brassy sound similar to Sonic Youth, the Raveonettes' style is characterized by close-vocal harmonies, distortion and re-worked rockabilly.

After the release of their 2001 debut EP, *Whip It On*, the Raveonettes scored an appearance at the SPOT Festival in Aarhus, Denmark. While there, the band was 'discovered' by *Rolling Stone* editor David Fricke, who ardently raved about the band.

In 2003, *Whip It On* won the Raveonettes more notoriety when it was named "Best Album of the Year" at the Danish Music Awards. Additionally, the Raveonettes were picked by *Rolling Stone* and *Q Magazine* as among the forerunners for the newest wave of contemporary music.

According to *allmusic.com*, the Raveonettes are "ambitious in their own way." Their idiosyncratic noir appeal can be seen in one of the main reasons for a growing musical status — the music video for a single off their 2003 release, *The*



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.BBC.CO.UK
Copenhagen-bred Danish duo The Raveonettes bring their revamped retro, lo-fi garage sound to the Ottobar stage on Friday.

Chain Gang of Love, featured the two Danes dreaming up ways to plan each others' deaths.

On a different, lighter note, many of the songs from *Whip It On* and *Chain Gang of Love* feature a rich sound and thriving reverb, production qualities pioneered by Phil Spector and the Brill Building of the 1950s and '60s. Their style is a sexed-up doo-wop with slight girl group influences that just in semantics, makes for a promisingly intriguing listen.

2005's *Pretty in Black*, which features guests Ronnie Spector and Moe Tucker of the Velvet Underground, somewhat deserts the previous tendency for distortion sounds; however, these techniques are revisited in

the band's most recent release, *Lust Lust Lust*.

Released this year, the album returns to the band's roots and is most similar in sound to their first EP, *Whip It On*. *Lust Lust Lust* has met largely positive feedback, its songs described as 'sensual,' 'energetic' and 'edgy.'

The thematic focus is, as the title suggests, lust — and who wouldn't be interested in an entire album sung by a Danish beauty about love, or rather, the dirtier side of it?

According to an interview with *Pitchfork Media*, the inspiration for the album was "a lot of big questions ... that are really difficult to answer," such as "what ... people gain from love and what ... people gain from

sex" — the idea of irrational lust and the danger of lust as a dynamic human emotion.

And with their recent change of record labels, from Columbia to Vice, the Raveonettes are in a period of transition, working towards achieving what they desire, musically speaking.

But with the duo working as hard as ever, reportedly writing close to four songs daily, the Raveonettes are likely to keep their eye on the ball through their changeover. This Friday, March 28, the Raveonettes come to the Ottobar (2549 N. Howard St.) for \$13. Visit <http://www.theottobar.com> for more information.

—Dana Covit

MOVIE OPENINGS

21

Opening at the Landmark Harbor East Cinema
Friday, March 28

1:45 p.m. | 4:30 p.m. | 7:20 p.m. | 10:05 p.m.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.SONYPICTURES.COM
Based on the famed book *Bringing Down the House*, 21 chronicles the heist-like series of events that accompany a group of six MIT students who took Vegas casinos for millions.

studying, practicing and teaching Buddhism for many years. The discussion/lecture will be held at the Vikatadamshtri Buddhist Center, located at 2937 N. Charles Street, and admittance is free.

7 p.m. doors. The Emilia Band and Summer So Far

Both of these bands are local; described by *Spin* as "countrified indie rockers," The Emilia Band is a pop/indie rock outfit from Bel Air, Md., while Summer So Far is a metal band from Baltimore who has played with acts such as Armor for Sleep. They are playing downtown at Rams Head Live! at Market Place and Water Street. Visit <http://www.ramsheadlive.com> for ticketing information.

8 p.m. Dial "P" For Pasties
Trixie Little and the Evil Hate Monkey, Baltimore's veritable burlesque superheroes, present their latest program, a *tour de force* of mystery, intrigue, acrobatics, humor and sexiness in a classic whodunit two-night-only performance. The show will also take place on Saturday, March 29 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$16 at the Creative Alliance at the Patterson located at 3134 Eastern Ave.

Saturday, March 29

9:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. FortFest '08: "Beyond Belief"
The International Fortean Organization (INFO) presents their 47th conference on unexplained phenomena at the American Visionary Art Museum's Jim Rouse Visionary Center. The day features an exciting lecture and film program and the giant "I-Would-Almost-Sell-My-Mother-To-Pay-For-Books Sale." Get the full details at <http://www.fortean.com>. It will also take place on Sunday, March 30, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Head to the American Visionary Art Museum (800 Key Highway).

4 p.m. Cherry Blossom Festival in D.C.

Take the train or plan a road trip to Washington this weekend for the annual Cherry Blossom Festival. For an idea of the tranquil festivities planned, visit <http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org>. The opening ceremony of this year's festival begins at 4 p.m., at 401 F St. NW.

7 p.m. Badfish w/ Scotty Don't, Shoreline, Pasadena

Channeling the energy and unique stage presence of the original Sublime, Badfish is more than just a tribute band, with its own following of fans, who gather to perhaps remember what could have been had Sublime's lead singer Brad Nowell not died

in 1996. Head to Rams Head Live! at Market Place and Water Street for this show, where tickets are \$17 in advance and \$20 the day of the show. Visit <http://ramsheadlive.com> for more information.

7:30 p.m. Peabody Preparatory Dance Showcase

Peabody Dance presents a mixed program of ballet and contemporary dance with guests artists from the Pennsylvania Ballet. Entrance for non-BMA members is \$18.

Sunday, March 30

1 p.m. Picturing/Mapping the Fire in Baltimore

Join Baltimore historian Wayne Schaumburg for a talk on one of the most pivotal events in Baltimore history — the Great Fire of 1904. Two stunning panoramic photos featured in Looking through the Lens show the city before and after the devastating fire that burned for almost 30 hours — destroying the entire central business district, damaging 2,500 companies and causing over \$100 million in losses.

8 p.m. – 11 p.m. Eva Castillo CD Release Party at the 13th Floor

The 13th Floor Club at the Belvedere Hotel hosts the release party for Eva Castillo's newest album, *3 Hours Later*. For live music performed by Castillo and her band, head to the Belvedere at Chase and North Charles Streets to support independent music.

Monday, March 31

7 p.m. A Collection of Visible Artwork: New Work by Brady Starr

Monday is the last day to view this exhibit at the Lo-Fi Social Club (1825 N. Charles St.), which features new work by the featured artist, Brady Starr. The exhibit is free from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., and \$5 from 9 p.m. – 11 p.m. due to the addition of music as a backdrop for perusing the artwork.

Tuesday, April 1

Edible Estates Coming to Baltimore

Los Angeles artist and architect Fritz Haeg is taking over one domestic front lawn at a time and replacing them with an organic, edible landscape as part of his Edible Estates art project. Tuesday is the last day to catch this *City Paper* Critic's Pick, so head to the Contemporary Museum located at 100 W. Centre St.

Got an event? E-mail dana.covit@jhnewsletter.com with basic information (time, place, date, description) to be listed.

Campus events

Thursday, March 27

5 p.m. – 7 p.m. DMC Workshop: Video Editing – Final Cut Pro

Digital Media Center workshops are free and open to full-time undergraduate and graduate students on the Homewood Campus; faculty and staff may attend workshops as space allows. All workshops are located at the Digital Media Center, located in Suite 226 in the Offit Building of the Mattin Center. This Thursday, you can learn how to edit your video project using Final Cut Pro HD on the Mac. The workshop will cover various topics such as digitizing video footage, adding transitions, effects and more.

Friday, March 28

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Grad Fair
The Barnes and Noble bookstore

hosts the Grad Fair event which will be integral in preparing for commencement. This is when you can purchase your cap and gown, order personalized announcements, order your class ring, sign up with alumni relations and even pick out a diploma frame.

4 p.m. – 6 p.m. Experiential Education Open House

Outdoor trips are back for the semester, and they've got a new base camp. Stop by for s'mores and sign up for a trip — whether it's a hike in the woods or kayaking along some rapids, they've got it all. The new base camp is located behind the rec center.

10 p.m. – 2 a.m. Levering Quad Beach Party

Phi Kappa Psi hosts this year's on-campus Beach party, with drinks provided by the Hopkins Deli. Alternate beverages and food will be available, and a valid college ID is needed. In case of rain, the party will be held in the

Great Hall in Levering.

Saturday, March 29

2 p.m. Hopkins Men's Lacrosse
Head to the Homewood Field at 2 p.m. for the Blue Jays vs. North Carolina game.

Tuesday, April 1

8 p.m. FAS Nuclear Proliferation Discussion

As part of the the Foreign Affairs Symposium's spring speaker lineup, this panel discussion will be held in the Glass Pavilion and center around nuclear proliferation in Iran.

Local events

Thursday, March 27

7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Guilt and Pleasure Salon: The Magic Issue

Exposure

By Conor Kevitt



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Baltimore band swims hard in small pond

By SARAH SABSHON
Arts & Entertainment Editor

"Funky, semi-poppy rock with a lot of hip-hop influences as well": This is how lead guitarist Riddie Becker described the indescribable sound of the Grilled Lincolns.

Hailing from our very own Charm City, the Grilled Lincolns, began about five years ago at Salisbury University where Becker and drummer Rob Dubois met and decided to form a band.

"We wanted to start a band, and here was this crazy kid Rob who liked rap music, some of what I like, who was open minded enough to give it a shot and we both had equal admiration for each other and each others' talents. We thought we could do something cool by putting that together. And so here we are now," Becker said.

Indeed they are. The Grilled Lincolns have been touring around the D.C. area, playing four to five nights a week, proof that making it in the Baltimore music scene is nowhere close to easy.

Becker said, "Baltimore makes you work harder as a band, because while the people here do like music, there aren't a ton of bars and venues on every corner like there are in other cities. You have to get in good with the venues that do offer live music and you really have to make sure that the people know who you are. Even though Baltimore is small, playing here for so long, we should be fish in a small pond but it's a really small pond, and we are just medium fish."

This isn't stopping the Grilled Lincolns, though, as they continue to put themselves out there week after week. "I am living my dream right now but what's hard is that we're still broke. We scrape by, and all the money that we make usually goes to fixing the



Ragsdale, Dubois, Bakke, Hall and Becker met at Salisbury University, where they formed the genre-hopping Grilled Lincolns. COURTESY OF COURTNEY BLOCK

van or buying new equipment. But it is a dream in the sense that it's my job to play music ... And the possibilities are endless. Right now I'm making money, having a lot of fun, I'm not at all burnt out from playing and touring, and I'm happy now. If you look down the road, it can only get better, really."

Becker's optimism is contagious and it is clear that the Grilled Lincolns are in it for the long haul, which is why they decided to send Becker as a representative down to the South by Southwest (SXSW) Music and Media Conference in Austin, Texas this year.

Realizing that they are indeed a budding band, they have acknowledged the need for a bit more guidance. SXSW is a pri-

vately owned company in Austin geared to creating networking events within in the music industry. Their event boasted over 12,000 registrants this year.

For a band like the Grilled Lincolns, this is the perfect opportunity to make long-lasting connections within the industry.

"You can't ever stop working in this business, but I think we made a lot of good contacts. Mostly there were panels during the day, meet and greets and demo listenings with record labels so it was a really good experience," Becker said. "A lot of shaking hands and schmoozing and trying to meet big wigs and hand out business cards."

One major lesson that Becker learned from the experience is that major labels are not looking to sign bands that don't have a signature sound — which could be a problem for the Grilled Lincolns, who pride themselves on their genre-hopping albums. Each song on their albums *Raised by Wolves* and *The Roaring '20s* can vary style — resulting in somewhat unfocused but not necessarily unlikeable composition, kind of like the mix-tapes of the '80s and '90s.

It's an existential issue that the band will have to explore because while "it might be our

downfall," Becker said, "it's what a lot of people say they like about us ... Basically we're invested in the theory that no one really likes one kind of music anymore but likes a little bit of everything."

While gearing up for their third album, Becker acknowledges that this effort needs to epitomize that search for a musical niche, perhaps by combining different elements within one song rather than jumping from hip-hop to ballad to rock with each track.

"We realized that you do have to jump through certain hoops. You can say, 'I'm an artist, I do what I want, I'm independent' but at the same time, we want to be successful and marketable and have a demographic. Just kind of growing up basically," Becker said.

With their sights set on maturity and a clear path on which to follow, the members of the Grilled Lincolns are ultimately all about taking their music to the people; and while they want to display their technical abilities, it's really just about enjoying the atmosphere. "We don't get political, God bless bands that do, but it's not for us. While we do have our serious songs, for the most part we don't take ourselves too seriously. We just want people to have fun at our shows, kick-back and have a good time."

The Grilled Lincolns will be playing at the 8x10 on Friday, April 18.

The Insider's Scoop The Grilled Lincolns

Book Review

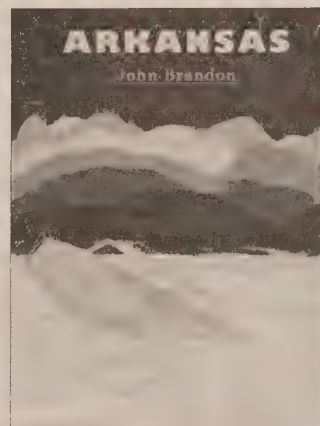
John Brandon
Arkansas
McSweeney's
Feb. 28, 2008
224 pages

By JOHN KERNAN
Arts & Entertainment Editor

There is a certain kind of trust that I have come to have in McSweeney's. Their quarterly literary journal, aptly titled *McSweeney's Quarterly*, is popular among artsy types who appreciate the avant-garde stylings of the publishers. The consistent quality of the quarterly — and the publisher's trumpeting — led me to try one of their "rectangulars." This past month, McSweeney's published their new flagship novel, *Arkansas*, by John Brandon.

McSweeney's gears its products toward bibliophiles, and the result is always impressive. *Arkansas* is solidly and artistically bound. The embossed title and sunken car image on the front cover is real gold. The paper is pure white, opaque and acid-free, and the text is neatly set off from the page. There is not a dust jacket, and instead one feels the heft and texture of the book as it is held. The book is almost worth the price simply as a piece of publishing mastery.

Yet, of course, the content of the novel is the real prize here. Brandon's debut novel follows the drama surrounding a Southern drug-distribution outfit. Kyle and Swin are two oddball thieves who end up working for "Frog," the mysterious head of the organization. They hold cover day jobs in a state park during the day, and run drugs when called upon by Frog's messengers. Swin gets himself a nurse girlfriend, and they interact with various others in the chain of command, most notably a woman known only as "Her."



It is difficult to say exactly what kind of novel *Arkansas* is. One could throw it under the "contemporary fiction" header, but that seems a cop-out. It certainly has more of an artistic feel to it but not enough to be called experimental. It's a drama about criminals, so "crime drama" comes to mind, but much of the novel takes place in the minds and homes of Kyle and Swin, raking leaves in the park during the day, picking up girls, checking up on their families. *Arkansas* is dark, exciting and fun — and about drug runners.

Brandon's dialogue is clever and natural ... or, at least, it seems natural for a bunch of off-their-rocker thieves. Kyle and Swin's personalities are very disparate but not forcedly so, creating a tension that leads to conversations that are absurd but believable in-context.

The crime aspect is something different. There are no secret meetings with the mob boss in the local smoke-filled saloon, no car chases or encounters with gruff detectives. Instead, Frog runs his operation without ever meeting his underlings. Kyle and Swin work only perhaps ten hours a week in their illegal jobs, mostly just picking up packages and driving them across a state or two.

Kyle and Swin are natural, unsympathetic criminals but aren't the Reservoir Dog, bank-heist type. Rather, they are criminals

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

Looking Through the Lens at iconic photography

By ALEX BEGLEY
Managing Editor

Photography has faced some of its most drastic changes in the digital age. Even though the medium is well known for the ease in which it can be manipulated and reproduced, the accessibility of Photoshop, the affordability of tiny digital cameras and the ability of the Internet to broadcast pictures to millions of people with minimal effort has altered the face of the genre. It has become harder and harder to tell what is authentic and what has been retouched. At any event — concert, athletic or otherwise — the number of digital cameras snapping candid is dizzying. Cameras are so ubiquitous that even photojournalism, the last true realm of photographers, has ceded to the "amateur journalist." Now it's the fortuitous person with the camera phone in the right place at the right time who gets his or her work flashed across major news stations.

So what about the photographer as artist? The Baltimore Mu-

seum of Art has taken some of the most iconic photographs from some of the medium's biggest names (Man Ray, Paul Strand, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Roman Vishniac, Marion Post Wolcott and Dorothea Lange) from 1900 to 1960 for a huge four-room display of beautiful work called *Looking Through the Lens*.

The exhibit opens with two depictions of early Baltimore by John Schaeffer. The first is a huge panorama of the Inner Harbor from Federal Hill from 1903. Even though the skyline is different and many of its now defining characteristics are absent, it's not hard to recognize the booming city rife with smokestacks and signs of industry. The second photo, of North Calvert Street from Lombard, is harder to relate to. It shows the ruins of the city after the devastating fire of 1904 that wiped out 70 blocks and many of the city's oldest buildings. The juxtaposition of the two photos, the booming city and its darkest hour, reflects the tumultuous cycle of booms and busts

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5



COURTESY OF GEORGIA O'KEEFE MUSEUM/ARS
Alfred Steiglitz's "From the Shelton, West" epitomizes New York in the 1930s.

BMA exhibition explores roles of pattern in African Art

By ALEXANDER TRAUM
Managing Editor

The final installment of a three-part series, *Meditations on African Art* is now on display at the Baltimore Museum of Art. The series is framed around general artistic conventions, rather than geography or chronology.

The first two exhibitions concentrated on light and color respectively in traditional and contemporary African art. This final show is focused on its subtitle, "Pattern," and contains a wide

range of styles and mediums from across the continent.

Karen Milbourne, the University's curator of African art, has organized a spectacular exhibition that succeeds in both focusing on the theory of pattern, while also showcasing a broad array of creations from Africa over the last two centuries.

This array includes approximately 70 works from 12 nations in sub-Saharan Africa. The exhibit features a variety of objects including textiles, shields, masks, figurines, cups and swords.

The exhibition welcomes visitors by inviting them to consider the cultural and social functions of patterns. The works featured, the introduction states, "address how artists create visually arresting forms and designs that please the eye, adorn the bodies of men and women and identify cultural groups."

Many of the older works, like all products from traditional cultures, reflect the societies in which they were produced. For example, the Kuba textiles produced in Congo reveal the gender roles of this culture. The palm fibers are originally gathered by men. After this, men and women together render the fibers usable. Men then weave them into tapestries and women finish with the embroidery.

The collection of shields featured in this exhibition also tell much about the society's cultural assumptions including the character of ceremonial life

and the conceptions of masculinity. The shields are large and vibrantly colored. The size and varied shapes are meant to communicate both the power and identity of the possessor from a distance.

Though most of the exhibition focuses on traditional forms, the show's highlight is contemporary. Mary Evans, a Nigerian-born, London-based artist, produced a site-specific multimedia exhibition. There are four components to this installation. The room is covered with a wall-paper-like mural with several human shaped silhouettes produced in repetition.

The patterns seem innocuous at first, yet the work has a more sinister subtext. The figures stacked upon each other are meant to recall the cargo-like treatment of African captives on slave ships.

Evans's installation also includes a kaleidoscope with a digital video montage of slave ports in England and West Africa, and a plantation in the American South. Also included in this installation are framed works of paper and a series of rosettes on display above the visitor entrance.

The most interesting aspect of the exhibition is the diversity of materials that went into the works. Take for example a traditional Central African mask from the early 20th century that is on display. This one mask alone is composed of wood, metal, fiber, beads, shells and paint.

Meditations on African Art: Pattern will be on display at the Baltimore Museum of Art through Aug. 17.



COURTESY OF STAN STREMBECKI
Mary Evans's "Detail: Scope" is a modern reflection on traditional Africa patterns on display at the BMA.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Rogen's Drillbit Taylor imitates and fails

By DEMIAN KENDALL
Sports Editor

It was an all-too familiar scene: two high school kids talking on cell phones about a day at school and how their lives were going to change. They rattled through the seemingly relatable dribble about popularity and girls, cracked a few fat jokes, yet after each punch line, all I heard were chirping crickets in the theater.

Drillbit Taylor came off as a cheap cash cow for co-writer Seth Rogen, who seems to be riding the massive success of *Superbad* by creating a strikingly similar plot with almost mirror-image characters and themes. His lack of effort shows.

Superbad was his high-school movie, a movie that joined the ranks with *American Graffiti*, *Dazed and Confused* and *The Breakfast Club*. *Drillbit Taylor* was the death rattle, the dying gasp of his ultimate project.

The story mainly follows Wade (Nate Hartley) and Ryan (Troy Gentile), two incoming high school freshmen who immediately suffer repeated abuse from members of the senior class, particularly from one exceptionally maniacal emancipated minor who has curried good favor with the administration.

The boys hire a homeless man by the name of Drillbit Taylor (Owen Wilson) as a bodyguard against the bullies, under the misconception that he is an ex-marine.

Initially trying to con the boys and their families out of everything they own, Drillbit eventually forms a relationship with them and fights for one last shot at redemption.

Owen Wilson as Drillbit Taylor was the saving grace for this movie. Without him, I wouldn't even have considered it. He delivers some funny lines and his interactions with the kids are sometimes worth a chuckle or



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM](http://www.allmoviephoto.com)

Troy Gentile, Nate Hartley and David Dorfman look up to Owen Wilson, a homeless con artist, in this *Superbad*-esque farce.

two, but on the whole, it's the same old Owen Wilson.

The character of Drillbit Taylor is just a homeless version of the identical Owen Wilson characters that viewers have seen pop up in B-list comedies such as *Starsky and Hutch* and *You, Me, and Dupree*.

He's charming with the ladies and quick with the witty one-liners, but by the end of the movie, he doesn't deliver anything new. His lack of effort is almost as evident as Rogen's.

The real acting tragedy comes from Gentile and Hartley, who play the two main characters, and just seem too young to be taken seriously.

Their characters are the spitting image of Seth and Evan from *Superbad*, two socially awkward

teens with a dynamic chemistry, but their performances aren't half as entertaining.

While the characters of Seth and Evan found a way to make awkwardness funny, the boys of *Drillbit Taylor* just make it uncomfortable. It quickly becomes clear that they are merely trying to imitate the acting styles of Michael Cera and Jonah Hill, and falling far below the line in a display that becomes painful to watch.

The two are even followed around by a "McLovin'" character by

the name of Emmet (David Dorfman), who's squealing voice and high-pitched screams are more of an annoyance than anything else.

The predictability of the plot is yet another failing point in *Drillbit Taylor*.

Drillbit Taylor. *Superbad* was effective in the same way that *Dazed and Confused* was effective because it was a plot-less ride.

Viewers didn't know what to expect, which made each ensuing scene the more effective. Each random car ride and string of events led the viewer deeper and deeper into the characters' adventure, something that *Drillbit Taylor* lacks.

The movie follows the simple, overused comedic plot, where things start out rough, quickly get better, hit a turn for a worse and eventually lead up to a hopelessly satisfying conclusion.

Towards the end of the movie, the characters experience a predictable falling-out and the situation looks doomed for all, but it's not convincing.

Throughout the movie, you know that Drillbit will pull through, get the girl and redeem himself, and you know that the kids will overcome their obstacles and find a social niche in their high school career. The good guys win and the bad guys lose, fading to credits and an overwhelming sense of disappointment.

Drillbit Taylor is nothing more than another cheap high school flick, to join the failure bucket with the seemingly endless *American Pie* spin-offs.

It delivers nothing more than a quick buck to Seth Rogen and a few isolated laughs in the midst of a wave of unmet expectations.

Don't waste your money on this *Superbad* re-make that truly is super bad.

Crime novel debut nabs high marks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3
because that's all they can relate to, not because they dream of vast fortunes.

Brandon chooses to jump between two major perspectives to relate his story.

First, there is the present-day perspective of the several main characters, which is told in a more or less standard way. There are some interesting points of style, like when Swin talks about writing a book about these adventures, just as they happened, taking an unbiased view. The reader realizes that he holds that book in his hands; the fourth wall is nearly — but not quite — broken.

The second, more striking, perspective is that of Frog, whose story is told in the second-person "you." It starts much further back in time, when frog is just starting his career in crime, and jumps forward towards the time of the main action.

The two perspectives play off each other and, combined with Brandon's storytelling, form a cohesive whole.

Arkansas is the kind of novel you want to pass off to a friend — not just because it's a good read, but because it makes you feel cool recommending it. It's also the kind of book you want to have sitting on your shelf, its gold embossing glimmering in a ray of sunlight — hopefully catching the eye of a nosy guest.

New Vibrations

Gnarls Barkley
The Odd Couple
Atlantic
March 18, 2008



I don't know about you, but when I hear that an artist with a recent smash hit single is releasing a new album, I get nervous. It seems that sometimes they feel such pressure to put out another super-catchy, super-popular tune that they jam up, and the entire album rings hollow, just an attempt to jump back to the tops of the charts. And when the band is one with a hit as unique as Gnarls Barkley's "Crazy" (off of 2006's *St. Elsewhere*), the stakes are set high: Will they try to force a hit to follow up or go with their natural (albeit sometimes very strange) flow?

Luckily, the two-person musical collaboration that is Gnarls Barkley is savvy enough about how music should be done that their new album, *The Odd Couple*, does not feel forced at all; rather, it's a smooth, creative continuation of their signature eerie/poppy/beautiful sound, with slight experimentation with a '70s feel. Rapper and vocalist Cee-Lo Green (Thomas Callaway) lends his hoarse but melodic voice to the tracks, while multi-instrumentalist and producer Danger Mouse (Brian Burton) layers his sometimes stuttering, sometimes smooth percussions and synthesizer (as well as, perhaps, some real instruments?) underneath, bolstering Cee-Lo's vocals. Danger Mouse is perhaps best known for producing Gorillaz's *Demon Days*.

This musical philosophy has carried through to their newest album. The album, which was so highly anticipated that fan messageboards were speculating on how the album would turn out based on the earlier-released tracklist alone, has no runaway hits like "Crazy" but overall is very strong. The whole album has a cohesive, moody feel (alternately angry, childish and detached), but no songs stand out as an attempt to serve up another palatable single for the charts to eat up. This independence of what-is-expected is typical of their collaboration, and it works for them: They are hard to define, unpinable maybe, but brilliantly good at doing so without being too strange to listen to.

The album is brooding, certainly, but not heavy. The duo tackles serious business — death, deception, isolation — without freaking out about it, and in fact in such a way that you might find yourself bopping along before you realize what the words he

is crooning have to do with very un-pop matters.

The album opens with "Charity," which features handclaps (which recur in the album, lending an organic sound to support that of Cee-Lo's voice over Danger's synth), and xylophone-type sounds over electronic ones. And coasting through all, as on many of the tracks, is Cee-Lo's slightly hoarse falsetto, which in the next track, "Who's Gonna Save My Soul?" is absolutely haunting. Slow and contemplative, with his voice occasionally breaking (to effect, not cheesily), he sings "I wonder if I'll live to be old now, getting high cause I feel so alone now." Taking the freedom to drift through his songs, but revving them up sometimes with force, Cee-Lo's voice is often the driving force behind the faltering instrumentalists.

Another kind of song on the album is the sort in double-time, for example the third track, "Going On." The beat becomes fast, furious, punctuated with handclaps and Cee-Lo's voice attacking each syllable, but melodically. His ability to chomp words but still carry a tune may very well be a remnant of his rapping days.

Occasionally the duo experiments with jacked-up '70s Motown cheer, concealing lyrics like "Run children, run for your life!" But a couple tracks later, on "Open Book," he hoarsely screams his words over sparse stuttering electric drum beats and synth strings. My favorite song on the album, "Blind Mary," played with a carnival-esque sound, lending an eerie sound to the smooth vocals. The lyrics on this album are also genius: in this song, he sings, "She has no idea that I'm ugly/so I have absolutely nothing to hide/because I'm so much prettier inside."

The album ends with "A Little Better," a pondering but hopeful song about the hope that perhaps all this madness isn't so bad after all. Is it a statement on their part? Perhaps. Either way, this album is definitely worth a listen. It's a little bit of everything manic and nutty and fun about pop and hip-hop and alternative rock, and it is interesting (and refreshing) to see how the duo works with it.

— Vanessa Verdine

Panic at the Disco
Pretty. Odd.
Fueled by Ramen
March 25, 2008



Hats off to Pete Wentz. He's the de facto frontman of the biggest teen-rock band around, he's dating a pop starlet, and he's managed to pick up some of the best new groups around — as proven by Panic at the Disco with their sophomore album, *Pretty. Odd.*

Panic is now sans "I," apparently as a sign of their maturity as a band. It could be called a senseless gesture if it were not for the fact that the band has, in fact, matured.

I went into *Pretty. Odd.* expecting an "A Fever You Can't Sweat Out" part two. This wouldn't have been so terrible, but it would not have been anything remarkable, either.

On the opening track, "We're So Starving," my expectations were shattered. The song is a tongue-in-cheek greeting to the album: "We're so sorry we've been gone/We were busy writing songs for you." They maintain their Panic sense of humor, but the melody is clean and catchy, Queen-esque harmonies are featured and Radiohead-fat guitars burn in the background. This album is something entirely different.

Gone are the ridiculously long song titles, the constant obsession

with cabaret (don't worry, there is still just enough left). Instead, we move from the hints of multi-instrumental tracks on "Fever" to full-out orchestra playgrounds. We get brass-and-tambourines from Chicago, and even a Dylan-inspired folksy tune.

With the change, however, there was something else lost. I'll admit it: I totally rocked out to "I Write Sins Not Tragedies" in high school, not hitting the high notes — but not for lack of trying. And I banged my head to the epic techno breakdown in "The Only Difference..."

But you won't find any of these boiling moments on *Pretty. Odd.* Everything is fun, catchy, ambitious and impressive. But nothing is going to make me press the gas down any harder.

Perhaps it really is best that Panic dropped the 'I' for this album. Something of the little extra edge is gone. But like the new name, the album flows better, has more coherency and is less kitschy.

Well done, Pete.

— John Kernan

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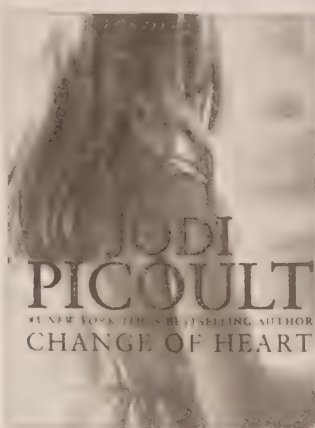
All true.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Book Review

Jodi Picoult
Change of Heart
Atria
March 4, 2008
464 pages

By NATALIE BERKMAN
News-Letter Staff Writer



Jodi Picoult recently published yet another novel this month, *Change of Heart*, in which a convicted murderer on death row wishes to donate his heart to the sister of one of his victims.

From the very premise, it is evident that *Change of Heart* will be a very evocative work of fiction, tugging at the reader's heartstrings at every possible moment, but it's also thought provoking.

As in her other novels, Picoult forces her readers to consider interesting and sometimes controversial topics with well-researched arguments. The topics here are religion, the death penalty and science.

Some might believe that writing 15 books in 16 years, almost a book every year, would make her a formula writer.

One of her most famous novels, *My Sister's Keeper*, was also a provocative novel with important issues at heart — stem cell research, genetic “designer” babies and cancer.

The way Picoult sets up both novels is very similar, leaning toward formulaic. Both stories are told from the points of view of various characters who are integral to the plot. In this way, Picoult can avoid bias towards one side of an issue.

At first glance, however, the style doesn't seem very unique. Both novels also culminate in court cases, although the purpose of each case varies. The writing proves engaging which prevents the reader from growing tired of

the style.

Don't plunge into one of these novels expecting genius — it's more like an incredibly creative thesis paper that happens to take the form of a novel. Picoult has done her research and lets the reader make up his/her own mind about each issue.

In *Change of Heart*, June Nealon puts her trust in Shay Bourne, a carpenter, when she needs a nursery built before her second daughter is born. She has survived tragedy — her husband died in a car crash, but miraculously, her daughter, Elizabeth, survives.

June marries Kurt, the policeman who helped her after the crash, but just as her family is about to become full again, Bourne betrays her trust. After murdering Elizabeth and Kurt and leaving June alone again, Bourne is convicted and becomes New Hampshire's first death row inmate in 69 years.

However, years later when Bourne is running out of time, he decides that he wants to donate his heart to June's second daughter, Claire, who was born with a heart disease.

The issues that follow are practically as numerous as the books Picoult has written: Bourne performs so-called miracles and is believed by some to be a messiah; Maggie, Bourne's lawyer, has to find a way to allow Bourne to be hanged so his heart can be

donated; Michael, a priest, begins to discover old gospels and doubt the foundation of his religion; and June and Claire want to refuse the heart of the man who destroyed their family. Whether the novel is formulaic is not the question. The question is, is it enticing enough to devote our precious free time to reading it?

Jodi Picoult's *Change of Heart*, is more the kind of novel to read at the beach or on a vacation of some sort. It has the same appeal that *The DaVinci Code* has — it forces the reader to question everything and is, in that sense, educational. If you are a fan of Picoult's previous novels or are just in need of a good book to help you fall asleep at night, *Change of Heart* won't disappoint.

Many of the topics in this novel can be considered controversial, but Picoult doesn't treat them in such a manner. Rather, she leaves the final decision to the readers and merely gives them a good foundation to establish an opinion.

Change of Heart looks at the fundamental elements of organized religions, not just Catholicism, but every religion. Her arguments are based on fact and are presented in a fictional story, so the novel doesn't read like a textbook.

Change of Heart also examines the death penalty in America and shows the reader a first-hand account of a prisoner waiting patiently to die. The plot is intricate (a little unbelievable at times, leaning toward the “too coincidental”) and gripping, and the characters all seem very real, especially since we hear the story directly from them.

Ultimately, *Change of Heart* isn't a must-read, but it's a should-read. If sometime between midterms and finals, there are a few minutes of free time that you are willing to devote to an interesting book, then you should pick it up.

If you don't have any free time at the moment, remember the title in a few months when you leave Hopkins for the summer.

BMA traces early 20th century in photos



COURTESY OF ESTATE OF BRASSAI-RMN

Brassai (Gyula Halasz)'s “Lovers in a Small Café near the Place d'Italie” depicts an old-world sensibility in *Looking Through the Lens*.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3
that have always plagued Baltimore.

Another piece in the same room is a scrapbook of photos and ink drawings. Five unrelated photos are anchored to the page by the ink drawings that start at their edges and create a scene that ties them all together. It's a stunning piece that creates a beautiful narrative thread between the two mediums.

The rooms are loosely divided by themes like modernism and surrealism, though you could see many of the artists pieces in two different categories. A series of dark black and white prints by Paul Strand anchored the modernism section which also included Edward Weston's “Pepper.” Some Dadaists also made their way into the modernism category, most notably Aleksander Rodchenko and Vinicio Paladini, with collages that married geometrical shapes and photographs.

Portraits were not confined to one “-ism” but rather dispersed throughout. Max Burchartz's “Lotte's Eye,” Edward Steichen's portraits of Greta Garbo and an

aging Charlie Chaplin playfully “shooting” his iconic bowler hat with his equally notable cane, and Man Ray's film noir pieces of circus folk and Marcel Duchamp were some of the more memorable ones. A large chunk of the exhibit was dedicated to Man Ray and includes some of his famous pieces like “Tears,” which is currently stretched across Charles Street on the BMA banner, and “Le Violon d'Ingres” which is a woman with a violin's f-holes painted or tattooed on her back. Tom McAvoy's shots for *Life* magazine are a little too candid to be portraits but masterfully capture an inebriated President Franklin Roosevelt at a dinner party. Weegee's “The Critic,” which shows two bejeweled society women smiling for the camera as a homeless woman confronts them, could be called a portrait of society and offers some comic relief in a collection that is often laden with disparate themes, as the time period calls for.

The Surrealism section could be characterized by the distinctive overlapping negatives like in Imogen Cunningham's “Mount Hamilton Observatory,”

but one photo stood out among them as my personal favorite. It was Salvador Dalí's and Horst P. Horst's “Dreams of Venus.” A photograph of Horst's paired with Dalí's ink embellishments turned a statuesque photo of a woman into a graceful, cinematic sea creature. It is collaboration at its best.

The end of the exhibit moves from urban shots of America and Europe to rural United States during the depression. Dorothea Lange's heartbreaking shots are paired side-by-side with Marion Post Wolcott's, while Ansel Adams's landscapes hold down their own wall.

The exhibit ends with a salute to American life and a series of still lives. It's a quaint end to an impressive and moving exhibit. Photography is probably the best way to capture the six decades that the collection encompasses because it was a time of unimaginable change and circumstances. Only a picture can capture the truth in a face, a landscape or portrait; after two world wars, a depression and numerous revolutions, the truth was in high demand.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Antidepressant use linked to adult-onset diabetes

By APURVA YELURU
For The News-Letter

Diabetes and depression are two of the most common ailments suffered by middle-aged and older adults. Doctors know that people with diabetes are at a greater risk of becoming depressed.

A new study suggests that the reverse may be true as well: Although depression itself does not put adults at a greater risk of developing type-II diabetes, use of an antidepressant does.

The study chose subjects who are already at a high risk for diabetes, especially those with high glucose tolerance or low insulin sensitivity.

The subjects were randomly assigned to one of three different treatments as part of the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP): intensive lifestyle, treatment with an anti-diabetic pill or taking a placebo.

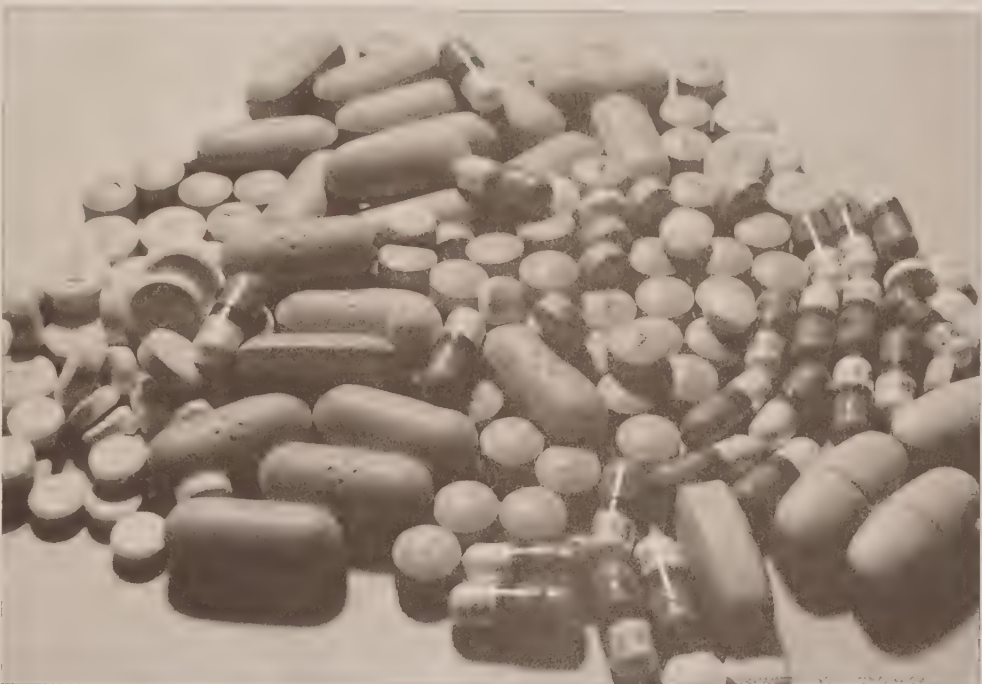
The first type of treatment method in the study involved subjects staying on a low-fat diet and regularly engaging in moderate exercise.

In the second group, subjects continued their standard lifestyle but took an anti-diabetic pill, metformin, twice a day.

In the final group, patients kept the same standard lifestyle as patients on metformin but substituted the drug with a placebo.

At the beginning of the study, doctors measured the depression level of each subject using a test called the Beck Depression Inventory (BDI).

The BDI is a 21-question self-



A wide range of common antidepressants, such as Prozac and Zoloft, might increase the risk of developing diabetes later in life.

reporting quiz that categorizes the patient's state of mind over a two-week period. The study took place over three years, and the subjects took the BDI every six months in a clinical setting.

Another part of the study revolved around antidepressant use. The investigators hypothesized that antidepressants are associated with increasing diabetes risk; however, they were unsure how they are linked.

One class of antidepressants, called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, which includes

the most commonly prescribed antidepressants like Prozac, has a well-known side effect of weight loss.

Since weight is an important factor in the development of diabetes, this class of antidepressants might actually reduce the risk of diabetes in the high-risk subjects.

However, after observing the patients over time, the investigators found that depression did not seem to increase the risk of developing diabetes.

In all three treatment meth-

ods, subjects with higher depression symptoms did not develop diabetes at a higher rate than subjects with fewer symptoms.

Antidepressant use, on the other hand, was associated with a greater risk of diabetes. In both the intensive lifestyle and placebo groups, subjects taking antidepressant drugs regularly had a higher rate of diabetes than those not taking any drugs.

In the group of patients on metformin, the anti-diabetic drug, antidepressant use did not significantly affect the risk of diabetes. This suggests that control of diabetes could be a factor in the development of depression.

The cause of this phenomenon is uncertain. Antidepressants, aside from selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, generally do not affect insulin sensitivity or glucose tolerance; there is no obvious link between antidepressant use and development of diabetes.

It is possible that severe depression, which may be the reason for taking antidepressants, is what lead to the increased risk of developing diabetes.

Since this study showed that antidepressants definitely affect the onset of type-II diabetes, further research should be done to determine how this relation works.

This research has practical applications: Patients at high risk for diabetes must be aware of the effects of antidepressants. Pharmaceutical companies that develop antidepressant drugs must now also consider diabetes as a potential side effect.

Since depression and diabetes are chronic illnesses, the long-term effects of one on the other must be investigated more thoroughly by the medical community.

The Flip: tiny video camera is a great buy for new users

By DENNIS KO
News-Letter Staff Writer

A lot of people have digital cameras, but not many have a camcorder. But what if you want to record those precious moments on film? Most times you don't need a fancy camcorder with thousands of features, but you want something that works.

I'm going to review Pure Digital's Flip camcorder, which surprisingly has captured over 13 percent of the camcorder market in the past year.

On first glance, the Flip looks like those toy camcorders, since it doesn't have bells and whistles like a zoom or flip-out screen. However, that is the essence of the Flip.

It's got a huge record button and only a couple of others, it doesn't use tapes, discs or memory cards, and it has a built-in USB plug for connecting to your computer. It's the equivalent of a simple point-and-shoot camera.

Because this device is so easy to use and carry, it's easy for virtually anyone to be able to capture video whenever they want.

The startup time for the Flip is only two seconds, making it possible to capture all those candid moments. And when you want to transfer video back to your computer, all you have to do is flip out the built-in USB switch and plug it into your computer.

The bottom line: This device is so simple to use that anyone ranging from a first grader to college students to senior citizens should have no trouble recording and downloading video from the Flip. The Flip is obviously a great choice for casual users who want to capture simple video, but it has its limitations.

As previously mentioned, it only has a 2x zoom, so you can't

use this device to capture things like sporting events, where you're far away from the action. However, the video quality is superb in dim light settings without anything like "night mode," so lighting isn't something you should worry about.

The other main limitation is the capacity of the device. The Flip comes in 30-minute and 60-minute models, which indicates the length of footage it can record.

There's no way to add more storage to it, so when you fill it up, you either have to download the recorded clips or delete them.

The quality of the video is decent, at least for Web sharing on YouTube, but it certainly isn't movie production quality. And lastly, I think the Flip is a bit overpriced at \$150 and \$180 for the two models.

Overall though, I think the Flip is really a great camcorder. It does what other camcorders can't do; that is to encourage you to take more videos. In the age of YouTube, who doesn't want to be able to capture every moment with ease?

It's great because it's rugged and easy to use, and I'd recommend it to those who don't mind the slightly high price tag.

THE FLIP

From: Pure Digital

Price: \$150 or \$180, depending on the memory size

Memory: 30 or 60 minutes

Available at: Electronics retailers nationwide

Grade: A-

Professor uses nano-physics to study cells

Daniel Reich designs microfabricated magnets to measure responses of cells to energetic fields

By JEROME SIMONS
News-Letter Staff Writer

What would a freshman expect when walking around in Bloomberg's infinite cellars, pondering what research might hide behind those massive wooden doors?

Daniel Reich, a professor of condensed-matter physics at Hopkins, opens one of the doors to reveal a laboratory that looks somewhat familiar from science-fiction movies.

There, he is working with a team of graduate students to develop advanced tools for modern biology research.

Yes, biology research happens even in Bloomberg, the esteemed physics center on the Homewood campus. Scientists like Reich are increasingly finding a niche in the fertile ground between two very different scientific disciplines.

His research team is working on methods to study the interactions of cells and their responses to external stimuli.

Biologists have been studying cells in detail for well over a century, but by applying the principles of physics, Reich and his colleagues hope to revolutionize the way we look at them.

The main idea of Reich's research is to put two cells in a trap where they have their own "private" spaces and can carry out their behaviors in isolation, where the researcher can observe them carefully.

"This is a very efficient way to align cells since they are not swimming around erratically like in a Petri dish," Reich said.

To achieve this, a film of metallic cobalt alloy is spread on a plate of glass and magnetized. Then, small holes are carved into the metal film leaving spots where there is no metal.

Since all elementary magnets in the film are aligned, the holes will also acquire a polarization, with a north pole at one end and a south pole at the other.

A few thousand traps are created. In order to let the cells become oriented to the magnets,

little magnetic nano-wires are infused into the cells. One can picture these as tiny magnets that lie inside the cell.

The plate is exposed to a magnetic field from the outside. The magnetic field causes the cells to turn with the north pole down. After that, the surface is cleaned one more time and the outside field is reversed.

This means that the second set of cells will fall down with the south pole facing the plate, thereby constituting partners for the first set of the cells.

The result is an array of pairs

of cells which are neatly organized. Putting cells in this reproducible arrangement has a huge range of possible applications.

"For example, we could study how cancer cells interact with other cells, but in more detail," Reich said.

Reich was trained in physics as an undergraduate at Harvard and a graduate student at the University of Chicago, a highly accomplished physics department.

How does a physicist get into so much biology? "I did my sabbatical in East Baltimore at the med school and basically began reading books about cell biology."

Reich particularly credits the influence of Christopher Chen, an assistant professor in the departments of biomedical engineering and oncology who has since moved to the University of Pennsylvania.

During his time at Hopkins, Chen and his team developed a microfabrication technique that allows construction of a type of nail bed on which cells can sit.

"This microfabrication technique is comparable to epoxy glue, but the outcome is that of a short, fat hairbrush," Reich said. Each cell sits on about 20 microposts, as the nails are called. One of the 20 microposts has a little magnetic nano-wire inside which reacts to an outside magnetic field.

As soon as the outside magnet is switched on, the cell experiences a stroke — the magnetized micropost is deflected and scratches

the cell. "It is like tickling the cell," Reich said.

Researchers can then look at the cell's response, particularly where the cell reacts. "You tickle on the foot and record a response on the arm."

Here the physicist's and biologist's views can definitely diverge: A physicist would expect that the response is greatest near the applied force, at least in mechanical systems.

But here, in a biological system, the reaction is actually greater at the edges of the cell. Why this is true is one of the questions Reich pursues.

It is clear that research that connects physics and biology is at the forefront of modern science.

Reich himself is humble about his own contributions to the growing field, though. "Maybe we can develop a tool for other researchers," he concludes, as he starts packing his suitcase to head out to the next conference.

Saturn's largest moon has a (smaller) ring of its own

By SAM OHMER
News-Letter Staff Writer

Saturn is one of the most intriguing objects in the solar system. It was the most distant planet known to the ancients, it is actually less dense than water and it spins faster than all but one planet, with a day lasting just

over 10 and a half hours.

Several spacecraft have been sent to study the Saturnian system since the earliest days of the space program: Pioneer, Voyager 1 and 2, and Cassini.

Cassini, the most recent, was launched in 1997 with the intent to study not only the planet, but also its astounding ring system

and its satellites.

Saturn has 52 named moons, each of which is just as interesting and complex as Saturn itself. They range from tiny, airless rocks to icy worlds almost equal in size to the inner planets like Earth and Mars.

An international team of scientists, including several from Hopkins, is using the Cassini spacecraft to learn more about these mysterious moons.

A recent publication from the group looks at the moon Rhea, the largest icy moon orbiting Saturn. Even though the moon was discovered in 1672, little is truly known about it.

Recent observations have made a surprising discovery: Rhea has a ring, just like the more famous rings around Saturn.

Previous observations had suggested that Rhea had an atmosphere that was strong enough to interfere with Saturn's magnetic field.

The new findings actually show that the magnetic interference is not due to Rhea's atmosphere but rather to a thin ring of debris in orbit around Rhea's equator.

This debris is thought to be the result of meteoroid impacts with the moon's surface millions

of years ago, which threw microscopic particles of rock and ice into orbit.

Using Cassini's instruments scientists have been able to observe Rhea's interactions with Saturn's magnetic field in much more detail than ever before, allowing for unprecedented calculations of the system's behavior.

The team found, unexpectedly, that the moon is actually "stealing" some of Saturn's magnetism — charged particles in orbit around Saturn are attracted to Rhea.

What exactly is causing this attraction is unclear, but scientists think the small dust particles in Rhea's ring and atmosphere are likely culprits.

Since a model of Rhea's atmosphere did not include enough dust particles to effect this change, they concluded that there must be another electron absorber on Rhea: a disk of larger debris.

The disk is quite sparse and consists only of small particles. Unlike the much more visually impressive disks of Saturn, Rhea's disk is not much to look at.

Nevertheless, this is the first time a disk or ring has been found around a moon in our solar system.



This artist's depiction of Rhea shows a thin band of dust particles around the moon.

Protein interaction causes brain tumors

By NEIL NEUMANN
News-Letter Staff Writer

Researchers from the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at the Hopkins medical school have uncovered a detailed interaction between two proteins involved in medulloblastoma, a common type of brain cancer.

This group of researchers has characterized and shown that two proteins involved in the repression of tumor formation work together to switch-off a third protein, which can lead to medulloblastoma formation.

Medulloblastoma is the most common nervous system cancer in children and is thought to arise from granule cell precursors (GCPs) in the cerebellum. The cerebellum, which means "little brain," aids in the integration between sensory inputs and motor control outputs.

It is mainly composed of granule cells, which are tiny in comparison to other neurons of the brain. This characteristic of the granule cells allows the cerebellum take up only 10 percent of the brain's size, but roughly 50 percent of the brain's neurons.

The Hedgehog pathway is involved in many developmental processes, in the cerebellum as well as in other parts of the body. During development, cells in the brain secrete Sonic Hedgehog, a protein that activates the Hedgehog pathway.

This pathway is used extensively in the formation of granule cells from granule precursor cells.

PATCHED-1 (Ptc1) is a receptor on the cell-surface of GCPs that binds to the Sonic Hedgehog protein, thereby activating the Hedgehog pathway within a cell. However, when not activated by this ligand, Ptc1 is also a tumor suppressor protein.

In its presence, it stops the formation of tumors, and in its absence, tumors can form. Interestingly, fewer than 25 percent of medulloblastoma cancers have mutations in the Hedgehog pathway.

The researchers from the medical school wanted to determine what other proteins are involved in the formation of medulloblastoma. Previous work done in the field has shown that mutations, or alterations, to the genome at a certain point show a higher incidence of medulloblastoma formation.

This region contains the other tumor suppressor, known as Hypermethyated In Cancer 1, or Hic1, on which the Hopkins team



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A large medulloblastoma, the light gray area at bottom, is visible in the cerebellum.

decided to focus its attention.

Hic1 is also a tumor suppressor. It has been shown that in medulloblastoma cancer cells, there is methylation of the gene, which encodes Hic1.

Methylation is a way for cells to silence genes that it does not want to express proteins. The problem with this is that cells can exploit this mechanism and use it to become cancerous. Since the gene for Hic1 is methylated, the Hic1 protein is not expressed and cannot properly suppress the cell from becoming cancerous.

When the researchers combined mutations of the Ptc1 protein and the Hic1 protein in a mouse, there was a higher level of medulloblastoma formation. From here, they wanted to know if there was an interaction in the pathway between Ptc1, which can repress the Hedgehog pathway, and the Hic1 protein.

Using gene expression and other techniques, the researchers located a target of Hic1, a protein known as Atoh1. When Hic1 interacts with Atoh1, the Atoh1 protein is inactivated and cannot help to form medulloblastoma. However, it has been shown that in medulloblastoma, Atoh1 is highly expressed, implicating its role in tumorigenesis.

Using molecular biology techniques, the researchers were also able to show that Hic1 acts downstream, meaning it acts after other proteins in that pathway,

in the Hedgehog pathway, showing a connection between Ptc1, which represses the Hedgehog pathway, and Hic1, which acts downstream in the Hedgehog pathway to stop the activation of Atoh1.

From all of this data the researchers were able to demonstrate that epigenetic regulation of the gene which encodes Hic1 regulates the formation of medulloblastoma.

Epigenetics is the branch of genetics in which the genes stay the same, but modifications can occur on those genes which regulate how they are used.

Thus, in normal granule precursor cells, the Hic1 gene is not methylated and the Hic1 protein can then work properly to suppress the formation of cancer by blocking the action of Atoh1. Furthermore, when the Hic1 gene is methylated, it cannot do its job properly and formation of medulloblastoma occurs by overexpression of Atoh1.

With this specific information about the formation of medulloblastoma, therapeutics directly targeting this pathway are underway.

Currently there are treatments for other diseases which demethylate genes and allow the gene products to function properly. There is hope that these same therapeutics will one day help to cure this aggressive childhood cancer.

One in four teenage girls has an STD

By TIFFANY NG
News-Letter Staff Writer

Do you know four female freshmen? Chances are that one of them has a sexually transmitted infection.

A recent study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 26 percent of teenage girls, or 3.2 million in the United States, have at least one sexually transmitted infection, or STI.

According to Alain Joffe, director of the Student Health and Wellness Center at Hopkins, human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most commonly seen STI at Hopkins. Herpes and chlamydia are also frequently seen at the center.

The pattern at Hopkins mirrors the national trends identified in the CDC study. The most common STIs among teenagers include HPV, chlamydia, herpes and trichomoniasis, a parasitic infection.

The study found that, of those with an STI, 15 percent have more than one of these diseases.

The overall rate of STIs could be even greater than what was described, since diseases such as gonorrhea, HIV and syphilis were not tested for.

However, the difference would likely not be significant, since there is a low prevalence of these infections in girls 14 to 19 years of age.

Approximately half of all subjects reported having had sex at least once, and among this group 40 percent had at least one STI.

The Student Health and Wellness center offers comprehensive and confidential services for screening and treatment of STIs. Most of the diagnostic services are available to students free of charge.

HPV was the most commonly found infection in the national study. The virus is found in dozens of different forms, but its effects can be grouped into two different categories: The first is associated with genital warts, and the second is known to cause cervical cancer.

Although most HPV infections clear up without any treatment, some continue to persist, putting women at risk for cancer.

Gardasil, the new vaccine that protects against certain types of HPV, has been recommended by the National Cancer Institute for teenage girls and is predicted to significantly reduce the incidence of infection leading to cervical cancer and genital warts.

"Health professionals have to use every opportunity to offer young women the HPV vaccine," Joffe said.

"The vaccine is indicated for any woman up to age 26, so they should get it, regardless of sexual history or prior infection with HPV," he added.

The results were also broken down along racial lines, with African-Americans having the highest STI prevalence of 48 percent, compared to 20 percent among both whites and Mexican-Americans.

This study, which was presented at a CDC conference earlier this month, has reignited the debate over American sex education, with many saying the emphasis on abstinence rather than safe sex has contributed to this alarmingly high figure.

Many health professionals argue that teens should be informed with the knowledge of how to prevent the spread of STIs, as abstinence is not a realistic alternative for many teenagers.

Experts generally agree that, while abstinence still is the best

option for disease prevention, teenagers also need to be informed of other ways of practicing safer sex, such as condom use and mutually monogamous relationships.

"Health education curricula are continually evolving, but experts have identified many of the key components to success," Joffe said. "Of course, that doesn't address the political issue of getting these curricula into schools."

More than half of the girls who had three or more partners were infected. However, even among girls who reported having only one lifetime partner, one-fifth had at least one STI.

Although it is undeniable that condoms reduce the risk of becoming infected with an STI, they are not a completely fail-safe way of preventing their transmission.

According to the Food and Drug Administration, while condoms are highly effective against the spread of chlamydia, trichomoniasis, HIV, gonorrhea and hepatitis B, they are less effective against genital herpes and syphilis. For HPV, protection from a condom is "partial at best."

Most importantly, these findings underscore the importance of getting regular screenings and vaccinations for such diseases, since many, including HPV, chlamydia, trichomoniasis and genital herpes, do not produce any obvious symptoms.

Both men and women can be infected with many STIs and be entirely unaware. Carriers of an STI are often able to pass on the disease to a sexual partner. If left untreated, such infections can pose many long-term problems, including infertility and cancer.

However, getting tested for STIs can be as easy as a trip to the Health and Wellness Center. "We have eliminated a lot of barriers in that the visits are free and the tests are free for females and males," Joffe said.

"If you are having sex, get yourself and your partner tested for chlamydia and other STDs and use condoms consistently and correctly."

We have eliminated a lot of the barriers in that the visits are free and the tests are free.
— ALAIN JOFFE, DIRECTOR OF THE STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

Two rare diseases share overlapping genetics

By BARBARA HA
News-Letter Staff Writer

As scientists start to discover the genetic basis for human health and behavior, they have come across some surprising findings. For example, even a single gene can cause multiple diseases, depending on how it is altered or mutated.

Sometimes diseases once thought to be distinct because of their symptoms turn out to be biochemically quite similar.

Hopkins researchers have uncovered an example of this with the identification of two sets of genetic alterations, or mutations, that cause two distinct illnesses from the same genes.

One of the diseases is Meckel-

Gruber Syndrome, also known as MKS. MKS is a severe disorder of fetal development that is almost always fatal in newborn babies. Although the disease is rare, it is related to more common disorders including cleft palate and brain malformations.

Scientists have identified mutations in at least three genes that cause MKS. The Hopkins group studied the genetic sequences of MKS1, MKS3, and CEP290. Surprisingly, the researchers found that changes in all three genes can cause an entirely different disorder, Bartlett-Biedl Syndrome, or BBS.

BBS is characterized by obesity, the presence of extra fingers and toes, or polydactyly, and mental retardation.

The scientists have put forward the hypothesis that, although these two diseases have different clinical presentations, from the perspective of a geneticist they might not be that distinct.

In studies in mice and zebrafish, the researchers showed that changes in the genes can cause both disorders. Mice with BBS-linked mutations also showed defects in the neural tube, the precursor to the brain and spinal cord that is commonly affected in MKS.

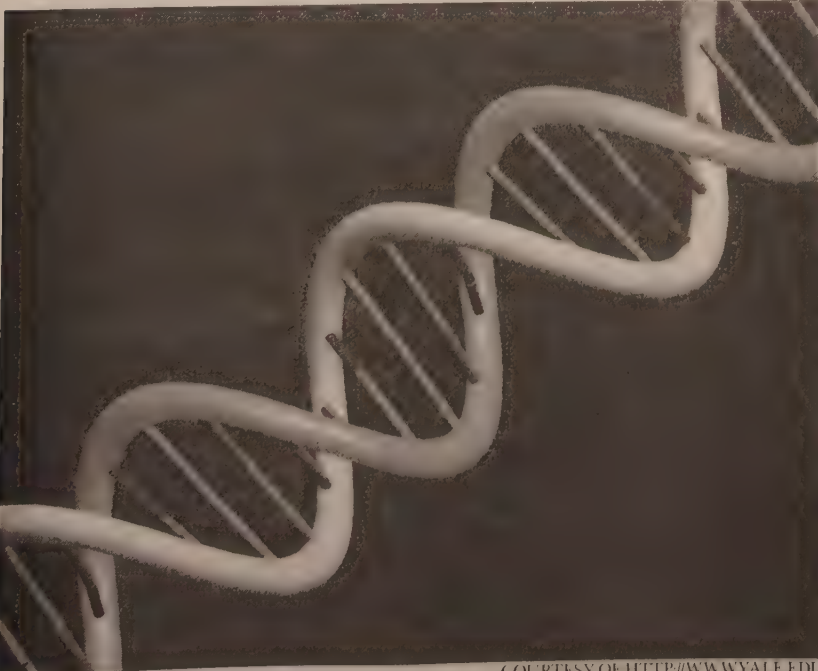
Overall, they found that mutations in all three BBS genes cause MKS-like effects.

The researchers argue that MKS might just be a severe variant of BBS, even though their manifestations are different.

This finding was only possible through the lens of genetics.

To further evaluate their hypothesis, the scientists studied the genes of families with BBS or MKS. Most of the families showed genetic similarities on a molecular level.

Despite the continued ambiguity in this area, the genetic findings have contributed valuable information by linking these rare disorders to each other and to more common diseases about which more is known.



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The double strands of human DNA continue to reveal surprising secrets in scientists' study of diseases.

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YOUR NEWS-LETTER

What did you do for Spring Break?



COURTESY OF SOPHIE KORN

"I camped in the Great Smokey Mountain National Park!"

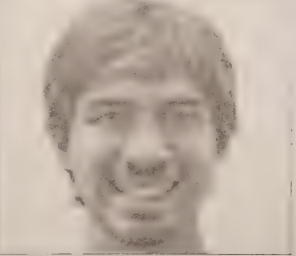
— Sophie Korn '08



COURTESY OF JULIA BLOCHER

"I stayed at a rental house in Fells Point with my mom. Mostly I shopped for my sorority little and slept a lot!"

— Julia Blocher '10

CONOR KEIVY/
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

"I took a trip up to New York City to visit new college friends and old high school ones. I also saw my first Broadway show."

— Rob Keleher '11

Habitat helps rebuild New Orleans for break

By LARISSA WOSKOB
For The News-Letter

It is hard to imagine what group of 14 people would emerge from the 60 Hopkins students who applied to hit the road for the spring break Habitat for Humanity trip to New Orleans. After a game of two truths and a lie at our first night's dinner together, I began to think it was purely our own idiosyncrasies that brought us together for the trip; the quiet guy who played cello, the worldly girl from hippie-central California, the international student who had never been to Walmart.

This was my first time on a Habitat trip. Habitat for Humanity is an international organization which utilizes volunteers to build affordable housing for those most in need. Habitat at Hopkins meets every Saturday to refurbish houses in West Baltimore for low-income families. Hopkins also attends international Habitat trips during inter-session, as well as the Collegiate Challenge during spring break.

During this year's spring break trip to New Orleans, Habitat worked to create inexpensive housing for victims of Hurricane Katrina. The coordinator at Camp Hope, where the college volunteers were staying, explained to us that the houses were being built with the goal of moving people back into the area. After three years, those who left during the hurricane still have not quite returned their city.

Our tour guide later cited that New Orleans, a city of 400,000 before Katrina, was now a city of around 3,000. If this does not make the situation clear, the fact that we were staying at an abandoned elementary school may help spell it out.

As a first-timer to the Habitat community, I did not know what to expect from the Habitat program. I also did not know what to expect from the truly assorted group of Hopkins students that had assembled for this trip. However, the "randomness" of our party seemed to fit in with the sort

of "randomness" of the place at which we had arrived.

Being in New Orleans meant crossing between the hurricane-devastated area of St. Bernard Parish into the vibrant, debauchery-ridden area of the French Quarter within only a few miles. It meant being ready to squat down or hang upside down or walk five feet off the ground on two-inch wide wooden planks in the morning and then relax and soak in the sights of the city or endure being hit in the face with beads or ride a mechanical bull in the evening.

Such juxtapositions showed themselves not only in the city but within our small group. It was the quiet cellist who worked most diligently on the flooring of the house we were building while I and some others could not immediately get used to hammering in a nail. It was the same normally quiet cellist who stood next to me in the midst of St. Patrick's Day celebrations in downtown New Orleans and yelled, "Yeah, titties!" at the bead throwing episode that had just flashed before us. I, on the other hand, could only handle one night of such decadence. Therefore, I enjoyed the three-hour-long tour of New Orleans given by a heavily accented local more than anything else and probably more than anyone else.

Ultimately, the moment that I think defined us as a group occurred when the Habitat coordinator at Camp Hope thanked the cafeteria full of volunteers for sacrificing their spring break, and tearing themselves away



COURTESY OF MARIE CUSHING

Sophomore Anne Peters hammers away with a Hopkins Habitat for Humanity trip to New Orleans.

from Cancun to come help Katrina victims in New Orleans. Having applied for this trip in a somewhat extensive application process, I doubt any of us actually felt like we had sacrificed our spring break to take a road trip down to New Orleans.

I'm not sure if we all felt exactly like this, but the drive to New Orleans reminded me of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* when he writes, "Our battered suitcases were piled on the sidewalk again; we had longer ways to go. But no matter, the road is life."

YOUR tracks

Compiled by Cara Selick

Now that spring break is over, we're all pretty much just wishing we were back on the beach, or even at home doing absolutely nothing, rather than going to classes and writing papers. This playlist will hopefully get your mind off your work (temporarily) and put a little spring back in your step as you trudge across campus!

1. Michael Jackson, "Thriller"

Who doesn't love this classic hit? (If you don't, prepare to take it up with me. And lose.) In the face of more midterms and long lectures, a little Michael can go a long way. Really, any of his upbeat dance hits will have you singing along (you know you know all the words!). Believe me, by the end of the track, you'll be feeling much better!

2. Willa Ford, "I Wanna Be Bad"

This is probably one of the worst songs I have ever heard. Feel free to disagree, but whether you enjoy it or not, this one hit wonder is great for a good laugh. Or to sing drunkenly with your girlfriends ... or guy friends. Either way, it's good for a chuckle and lightening of the mood.

3. Akon, "Smack That"

One of my favorite semi-current hits, this song is so much fun to dance to! And everybody knows that booty shaking (and smacking) is one of the best cures for stress! It's great to run to as well — another stress reliever!

4. Queen, "Bohemian Rhapsody"

This is another one of those songs that you can't help but sing along to. And anybody within earshot will join in. This will result in a sing-a-long study break that will last minutes beyond the average song.

5. Amy Winehouse, "F--- Me Pumps"

A song that makes fun of girls in clubs who think they're all that when they're not? And uses the F-word? Guaranteed fun to sing when you need a smile and a break.

6. Vitamin C, "Smile"

Speaking of smiling, this song is completely cheesy and therefore smile-inducing. You'll be singing along by the end of the third chorus, and hating yourself for loving it. I promise. And you'll be so involved in self-loathing for listening to such a stupid song that you'll forget all about your loathing of classwork!

7. Lily Allen, "Smile"

This song may have the same name as the last one, but the material is completely different. By this point, pretty much everybody has heard Lily Allen, and her music is very popular. This was her first hit and it's no big mystery why. The cute, perky tune paired with her rather sweet vocals are hilariously paired with a bitter and cynical view of a breakup. Thinking about smiling at your crying ex? Definitely a good way to feel better about having to read a thousand pages by the end of the week.

8. The Darkness, "I Believe in a Thing Called Love"

Try not to sing along and be happy. I dare you. Extra points if you can get all the squeals in correctly (Guitar!). This song has a nice beat, some great guitar lines, a feel-good "yay love" message and ridiculously high singing that is a blast to attempt to copy. Watch the music video for even more feel good times. It's absurdly funny.

9. Barenaked Ladies, "One Week"

Kudos if you know all the words to this song (Like I do ... be jealous!). A thread of pretty much randomly generated hilarious lines about unrelated things strung together into a fast paced song. What is it really about? Who knows ... but anything about having a tendency to take off your shirt, samurai films and *The X-Files* can't fail to please!

10. System of a Down, "Chop Suey"

So, this playlist has contained mostly happy songs to make you feel better. However, some people need to let off some steam in other ways. For those of you who would prefer to do a little screaming, I'm personally a fan of System of a Down (feel free to go more hard-core at your discretion). There's no particular reason for this specific song; I'm just personally a fan.

Devil child or bold and beautiful: a redhead's story

By LAUREN FLUGER
News-Letter Staff Writer

A week or two ago someone asked me (as she was drawing blood from my arm), "Did you used to hate your hair when you were younger?" And I answered truthfully, "No, never. I have received anything but compliments." The nurse then proceeded to tell me that she had a red-headed niece and nephew and that she thought redheaded children were the cutest. I had heard of redheaded kids getting made fun of, but, as I was assured, they were the "freaky looking ones" with huge hair, green eyes, excessive freckles, pale skin, red eyebrows, etc.

And I, with "normal" skin, dark brown eyes, brown eyelashes and wavy hair, was not one of these real redheaded children. I was, rather than a "gingerkid," a proud "daywalker." (*South Park* anyone?)

I was also recently asked by a friend, "Did you get made fun of because of your hair?" No. Never. It wasn't even on the radar. All I have ever gotten was "Oh my god, I love your hair!" And also,

recently, "Oh yeah, he has a thing for redheads." The antithesis of being made fun of, if you ask me!

There was one time when I was maybe 10, I was at the pool and I suddenly realized that all these people only see me with a cap and/or wet hair. Maybe I should take my time getting in today to make sure everyone sees I have red hair. Because they probably don't realize I have red (or should I call it orange?) hair. So I kind of strutted my stuff across the pool deck before my coach yelled at me to get in the water. Mission accomplished!

Once, I was at Charles Street Market at around 2 a.m. with my dark-haired friend who was talking with a friend of hers. He's in a fraternity and yes, he was drunk (Not to stereotype). I said something, and he responded to my comment with, "Yeah, listen to Big Red." Big Red! I didn't realize I was the big red type. Oh man. Talk about stereotyping! I mean, my Hebrew teachers called me 'gingi' (GIN-gee) in class, but it was endearing and I felt positively special. Now this guy was putting a label to me because of one comment and the color of my hair?

For the first time ever in my life. I actually thought, "What if I were a little brunette?" They seem ... well, they seem to have all of the fun. And then today I thought "maybe I should dye my hair blonde." I then proceeded to search for pictures of Lindsay Lohan to decide if red really was the best color for her. I was dismayed to realize I find her prettier as a brunette. I obsessed over what color looked best on

a natural redhead for far too long. And then I thought, wow, I need a life. Ashamedly, and probably none the wiser, I closed the window on my computer.

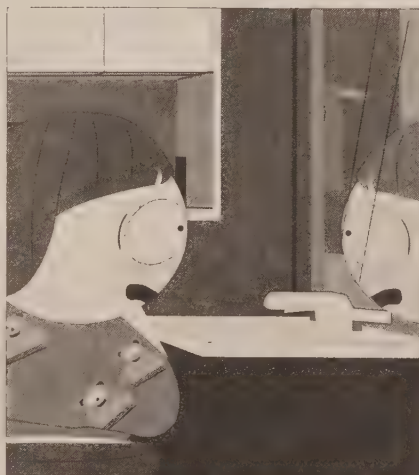
Regardless, the past week or two has been filled with unprecedented, existential, self-reflection: I always knew I was a redhead, but it didn't just process like it has recently. I searched Wikipedia for "redhead" last night, and I came up with all sorts of associations I had never heard before: Redheads are hot tempered. Redheads are promiscuous. Redheads need more anesthesia than either blondes or brunettes do. Thomas Jefferson was a redhead. So was Elizabeth I. She was the one who didn't wish to make windows out of men's souls. She ushered in an era of religious compromise. Right? So that's good.

Debra Messing is a redhead. A Jewish redhead! And Disney seems to appreciate redheads: Look at Ariel, and now, *Enchanted's* Princess Giselle. (And they both have light eyes, compared with my "normal" dark brown ones and brown eyebrows and eyelashes.)

Redheads look good in emerald green. Redheads either tolerate more or less pain, depending on which crazy study you look at. How do you get a redhead to argue with you? Say something. Redheads were seen as the sign of the devil. Redheads were seen as magical and enchanted.

Apparently, nothing conjures such a strong gut reaction, either positive or negative, as red hair. It gave the author a "warm glow," as she called it.

All of these connotations,

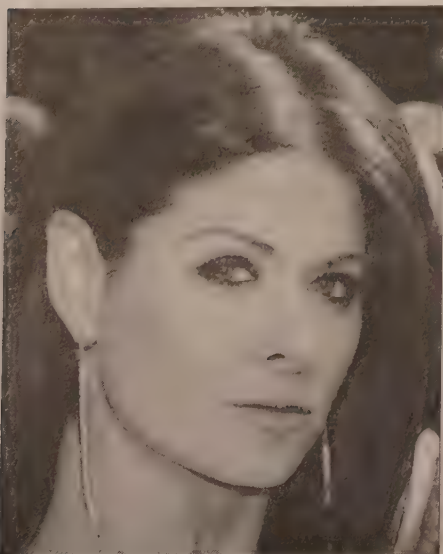
COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.COMEDYCENTRAL.COM](http://www.comedycentral.com)
On *South Park*, Cartman fears becoming a "ginger kid."

both positive and negative had my head reeling. Such special attention given to my hair color? A whole redhead culture? But I've always just been ... me. With my friends. Doing whatever we do.

The point is, redheads are a group, a community. And as weird as it may seem, I am one of them. And then I thought, did I need a few years to be self-conscious about my hair and then come to appreciate it. If so, would I have developed an ever deeper pride in my hair color? Would that have enhanced my life somehow, or eased the disappointment of not being able to wear most shades of pink?


You know what? Probably not. If I were teased about my hair? It might have made me self-conscious or defensive or something. I'm perfectly content with compliments.

I'm still trying to work out how I feel about this new concept of redhead identity. I'm not sure if there really is anything to work out, or if there should be. But here's what I have figured out: I'm a redhead, darn it. But why am I telling you that? You probably noticed that already.


COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.CELEBLOOK.COM](http://www.celeblook.com)
Debra Messing bestows a good name upon redheads.

CARTOONS, ETC.


your Horoscope




Aries: (March 21 - April 19)




Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)




Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)




Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)




Leo: (July 23 - August 22)




Virgo: (August 23 - Sept. 22)




Libra: (Sept. 23 - October 22)




Scorpio: (October 23 - Nov. 21)




Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)



Capricorn: (Dec. 23 - January 19)



Aquarius: (January 20 - Feb. 18)



Pisces: (Feb. 19 - March 20)

I love spring but I hate it when the blossoms from the trees make the sidewalk slippery. Look out for that.

Sincerely telling your mother that you love her is a great Mothers Day present. Telling her that you spent the money for her present on booze, is not great.

Hope for the best when you walk into class and the professor starts passing out blue books.

That crazy guy outside Uni Mini preaching about the end of the world doesn't sound so crazy after a few drinks.

Nobody knows what goes on inside those D-level stacks, but all I know is I don't want to be there when they do find out.

"Takes one to know one," is my favorite comeback. Example: "You're an idiot." "Takes one to know one!" Hilarious.

These days its just one big party until graduation when real life is going to hit us with sobering speed.

Secret lovers are fun. Secret lovers where one partner doesn't know they are in the relationship are creepy.

Horoscope readings can vary in accuracy but ultimately you are just gonna believe everything I tell you.

Messages about Brody's retirement are still being sent out. Seriously, nobody watched his video blog?

Too much partying on the week-end will result too much stress during the week. So stay in and study.

Seriously, you have to plan ahead if you want to get a spot on C-level during finals. You won't even fit on M-level if you wait too long.

Comicali

by Joe Micali

WOOT! SPRING BREAK {Insert Hometown} PAR-TAY!

We're home! What should we do?

Well, we're home, so...

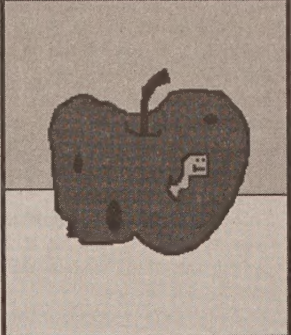
2 hours 56 minutes later!!!

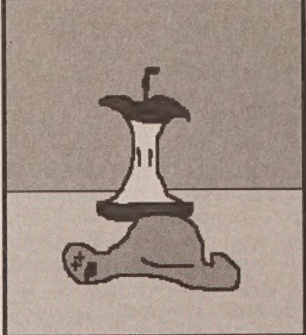
Wait! Really! What are we doing tonight?


... You wanna get coffee?

Wasted Ink

by Nate Min







Sudoku

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							1	8					7
										5			3
			6				7	4					1
				8					4				
1					5	9					6		
5			7										
8					1	5							
4			3				2	7					9

Trivia Time

1. What is the resident to slot machine ratio in Las Vegas?

2. What is the most popular first name in the world?

3. Name one of Popeye's nephews.

1) 1:8, 2) Muhammad, 3) Pipeye, Peepaye, Poopaye

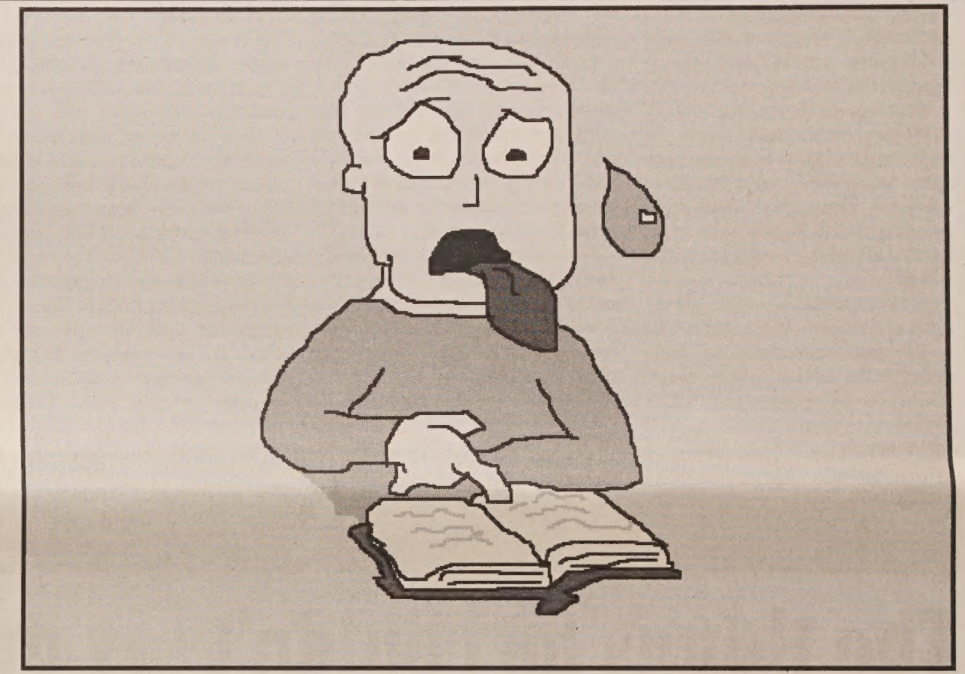
Word Search

Find: 2 web browsers, 4 ninja turtles, 6 inert gases, and 8 gems

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i o k h e l i u m r r
m n a n p x d n p o a

A Photo in Time

by Nate Min



Speed reading is difficult with run-on sentences.

Spring break diary of Matt Hunter

March 15, 2008: Yo what's up Diary? It's your boy Matt Hunter. But this week, my name might as well be Mad Hunter. And my middle name should be Booby. Because I'm gonna be a Mad Booby Hunter! Spring break!

Me and five of my closest bros are gonna be heading down to South Padre Island in Texas to soak up the sun and the honeys for the week. Why South Padre? Because the beer is beerier and the babes are babier! And you know what they say: the closer you get to Mexico the weaker the laws get.

It's a legal continuum, like flying towards the sun. The closer you get to the sun, the hotter it gets, but you don't want to actually land on the sun, because they'll steal your organs in Mexico man, seriously, while you sleep they'll cut you open for your organs. My bro Rick has a bro Nate who has a brother Jeremy (the biological kind, not the awesome kind) who's a lawyer and he told us that. But we're just going close to Mexico! Aww yeah, Mad Booby Hunter on spring break!

Also Rick's grandmother has a house on the SPI (that's what all the chill locals call it), but she's in a hospice right now 'cause she's dying of kidney failure, so we get to use her house. Spring break!

March 17, 2008: Yo what's up Diary? The Mad Booby Hunter reporting. I haven't bagged any babes yet, but that's just 'cause I've been too busy drinking like, gallons of beer. Seriously, dude, gallons. Did you know that if you squeeze lime into beer it tastes like ... like, f---in' ... lime in beer tastes great, man, that's all I'm saying. Did you know that? Did you know that, Diary?! Answer me! Did you f---ing know that,

Diary?! No, you didn't. 'Cause you're just a little book that I write s--- in. Suck my d---, Diary.

Nah, I'm just kidding Diary, you don't have to suck my d---. Aight, I'm gonna go hit the beach again. I'm so glad I bought these mirrored sunglasses so I can scope out the babes all stealthy-like, with my eyes like f---in' titty ninjas. Oh snap! Are they here? Are they there? Nobody knows! Mad Booby Hunter out! Spring break!

March 18, 2008: Yo what's up Diary? Mad Booby Hunter here. There are so many fly honeys on this island. Their bodies go like Pow! Pow! Pow! Blam! Pow! ... I was moving my hands closer and farther apart to illustrate, but I guess you couldn't see that, Diary. Well trust me, they're seriously hot.

No, I haven't gotten anyone in

Adar Eisenbruch

Let's Talk

bed yet, but that's just 'cause I'm a patient hunter, like the Maori of ancient New Zealand. Trust me, I've been getting plenty of attention on the beach. Sometimes it feels like the ladies just can't take their eyes off of me. Yeah! It was totally worth it to buy all that creatine and make a pledge shave my back for me. Spring break!

March 21, 2008: Yo what's up Diary? It's your boy the Hunter here. Still no kills, though. Damn, it's already Friday, and I still haven't gotten any booty. I don't know what the deal is. All my bros have found chicks, so I've had to sleep in the laundry nook in the basement for the past three nights. I don't know

why I haven't gotten any. I've been buying honeys drinks. I've been saying clever things about all the things I'd do with their titties. I've been subtly flexing in plain sight. Seriously Diary, I'm starting to get desperate. The Hunter needs some action! Spring break!

March 22, 2008: Yo what's up Diary? MBH in the house. We're in Rick's mom's Sequoia, leaving the SPI like pronto. We weren't planning on leaving this early, but um, we had to, because the Hunter got a little aggressive and might have taken shots at some game that wasn't exactly in season. So my bro Rick called his bro Nate who called his brother Jeremy, who told us to get the hell out of there before the cops got involved.

There's some legal thing about how if you do something on an island you can only be arrested for it on the actual island. So the bros are rollin' out! We might be changing hunting grounds, but I still need some play. Spring break!

March 23, 2008: Yo what's up Diary? It's Matt Hunter. That dude Jeremy is a little bitch. That legal advice about islands and stuff was mad wrong. The girls took down our license plate number before we left and the cops found us on the mainland. So now I'm awaiting trial for sexual assault or some s---.

But I think it'll be all right because my bro Jared has a bro Craig who has a cuz (the biological kind, not the ghetto kind) who's a paralegal or something. But none of us had enough money for bail, and I can't call my parents because they're still really pissed from when I totaled their 3-Series. Now I sort of wish that I hadn't gotten my back shaved. Or my pubes waxed into the shape of Texas. Hunter out.

SPORTS

(Tea) partying with the men of rugby

By KATIE MOODY
News-Letter Staff Writer

It's a typical Friday night at Hopkins and everyone is looking for a fun party. They've got their drinking shoes on, are wearing their favorite team's T-shirt and are sporting those jeans that are debatably clean. A rumor has been going around this past week that the rugby team has a party going on, so a few students head out in hopes of finding a rousing game of beer pong.

They arrive at the house, ready to go ... only to open the front door to find not rugby players, but a group of guys in pink polo shirts, plaid shorts, sweaters tied around their necks and neatly pressed khakis on their legs. But wait—it is the rugby team! But is this the right house?

Yes, it is. Tonight's the traditional rugby "Tea Party," and those who are lucky enough to be invited have a lot to be thankful for. The whole team is dressed in mandatory attire, which can be anything that would look good if you're playing golf or talking about stock tips while watching a dog show.

I caught up with freshman Mike Porambo to find out some insider details on one of the most underrated sports teams here at Hopkins, and he gave me the scoop from all angles.

Mike assured me that rugby at Hopkins doesn't exactly fit the traditional stigma of a hardcore sport with even more hardcore drinkers. These guys know how to study hard, tackle and maul hard, and party in between the three.

"Our parties are pretty typical actually. We'll get a keg or two and have the pong table going," he said. "But every spring we have our 'Tea Party,'



COURTESY OF ALEX SLEIGHTER
They look nice in uniform, but the rugby men actually prefer pastels.

where everybody dresses up like preppy kids."

The guys take pride in the fact that they can give each other a hard time, maintain good grades, win matches and pretend to love pastels.

The Hopkins Rugby Football Club, or HRFC, has a long tradition of great rugby teams, dating all the way back to the early 1900s. They play in the Potomac Rugby League against the University of Maryland, Loyola College in Maryland, Salisbury University, Towson University and others in the mid-Atlantic region.

Despite the fact that rugby is generally played in the fall, the team has quite a few scrimmages in the spring. They are off to an awesome 2-0 start, having recently played two games: one against a tough George Washington and the other against a solid Carroll County. The Blue Jays won both those games, 19-6 and 13-0, respectively. The win over George Washington was a huge one because the Jays lost to them twice in the fall.

However, don't confuse the ticks under the "W" column as easy matches. It takes timing, precision, strength, endurance, teamwork ... which all begin with the pre-game ritual.

Porambo was gracious to

provide the details. The entire team starts by stretching in one large circle with the captains in the middle. They then follow that with running through a few contact drills, and right before kickoff, the 15 starters will huddle together as tightly as possible underneath the goalposts to get the adrenaline flowing and to psych themselves up. This means that the war is ready to begin.

Even with the hype of the game, many people still ask: How brutal can a game really be? Porambo laughs at this.

"After our game versus Loyola in the fall, every player was covered from head-to-toe in mud, including in our ears, noses, eyes ... yeah, pretty much everywhere," he said. That sounds pretty dirty.

The future for the rugby team looks to be a positive one, according to captains Wayne Atwell and Chris Dorian.

"The team's made a lot of progress the past two years; with so much young talent, the club has a very bright future," Atwell said.

Dorian chimed in, agreeing. "Wayne and I will be leaving the team in good hands. We've got so much youth, we'll be a force for years to come."

As four-year veterans, Atwell and Dorian know what it takes for the club to be a success. They've both been spectacular leaders on and off the field for the team.

Let's just hope that the upcoming force that Dorian knows the team has will not only rock the field, but also carry on the tradition of spring polo shirts and tea parties.



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Junior Lauren Yum plays some tough defense, sending sports editor Mary Doman straight to the ground at Tuesday's practice.

A rigorous lesson from W. rugby

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

After I practiced with the team on Tuesday, I actually did manage to survive the two hours without bloodshed. I'm sure my bruises will heal, and I've shampooed the dirt out of my hair. The experience, though, has left a mark in my mind that's permanent.

"It's not an easy game to learn," sophomore captain Kaitlin Warnock warned me before practice.

True. And, unfortunately, in this case, ignorance was not bliss. It just kind of hurt.

Luckily, the girls on the team were eager to teach me about a sport that's recently stolen their not-so-fragile hearts. I'm still no expert, but at least now I know how to throw the rugby ball and dodge a tackle! Kind of.

The practice began with some basic warm-ups—running, tossing, catching. I was actually doing alright! The head coach, Frank, was surprisingly encouraging, patient and ... gentle, for a man who has probably broken more bones in his past rugby career than he can count.

"Burn it! Burn it!" he yelled as we sprinted down the field.

Just like "scrum," "ruck" and "line-out," I wasn't quite sure what this meant. I just tried to keep up with the team, who seemed to know (and enjoy) all of these things.

After warm-ups we did a few more drills which I did a little less-than-alright.

"The hardest part of rugby is the endurance. It's a very physically taxing game and in order to keep up each player has to be physically strong and able to run and tackle for the entire match," Warnock said.



Mary Doman
Practice Makes Perfect

True, again. Well, I thought so at the time. Actually, though, I think the hardest part of rugby is the ground. Like when you plummet into the cold dirt, stripped of the ball you cradled only moments ago.

And that's exactly where I found my body after quite a powerful hug from junior Lauren Yum. It's hard to say which hurt more—my spine, from the backdrop, or my stomach, from the laughing. I just couldn't help it!

I can't say this combination lasted too long (I still can't really sleep on my back), but getting my ass kicked was better than I thought it'd be!

Needless to say, despite my performance in the previous drills, I was excused for a portion of the team scrimmage.

"This type of competition is rare in women's sports," sophomore Gabi Henn said.

Like Henn, most of the women have never played rugby before coming to Hopkins. Still, Henn said, "I think it's already made us tougher people as a result, and that's a good thing."

The team still needs to get tougher, according to coach Frank.

After practice, he encouraged the ladies to hit the weight room on their off days. (For the record, Yum wakes up at 6:30 a.m. for her daily lifting routine.) "I want you to work on your arms, shoulders, upper body," he said. "Bulk up."

The team is doing just that in order to compete against their first match this Saturday. Hopkins is challenging another Baltimore women's rugby team whose players range from age 17 to their mid-40s. Frank suggested his players aim for the old ones.

"I predict we'll win a few matches, lose a few and learn a lot about the team and the game itself in the process," Warnock said.

The team is eager to build not only upper body strength, but also relationships and traditions amongst themselves.

"My favorite thing about rugby is the camaraderie that comes along with meeting and playing with girls that share your interests and love to take out other people as much as you do," Warnock said.

"I know that rugby is notorious for its song-singing and beer-drinking, but I've yet to experience any of that yet," Henn said.

The girls are definitely eager to learn about every aspect of a game that's new to almost every player. With an attitude like this, the women should be able to "burn it" for quite some time.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
JOHN THOMAS, MEN'S SWIMMING

The things he couldn't say under water

By MIKE PORAMBO
News-Letter Staff Writer

This week I had a chance to sit down with sophomore swimmer John Thomas, fresh from helping the Johns Hopkins men's swimming team to a second place finish at the 2008 NCAA Men's Swimming Championships.

Thomas won the 200-meter backstroke with a time of 1:47.43, breaking his own school record by 1.51 seconds, just missing the national record by .22 seconds. He also took the silver in the 100-meter backstroke, with a time of 48.95, breaking his previous best by .42 seconds.

Thomas earned All-American honors in both events. However, Thomas's words shine even brighter than his gold and silver medals.

News-Letter: You're an NCAA champion. What's next?

John Thomas: I'm just going to kick back, not worry about swimming, maybe climb some rocks and have some fun.

N-L: How did you prepare for the NCAA championship?

JT: Besides all the practices—the team practices 20 hours a week—I did a lot of visualizing. I thought a lot about my races and saw myself competing. Also, I always set really high goals for myself.

N-L: How were the team's spirit and morale throughout the championships?

JT: We started off really well—the team was psyched, but then towards the middle we broke down a bit; we lost some of our concentration, we lost our mojo—but on the last day we got our mojo back, and we kicked some ass. It was a great last day.

N-L: What do you like to do outside of swimming? Any hobbies?

JT: I'm a fan of the extreme sports. I like climbing, skateboarding and tight-rope walking.

N-L: So what's your favorite TV show?

JT: *Aqua Teen Hunger Force*.

N-L: Who are you supporting in the upcoming election?

JT: Turd Sandwich.

N-L: Haha. So you're at the top of your game right now. How do you plan on improving?

JT: For me, the important thing now is to take some time off. I've got to get my mind off of swimming, so that when the season comes around again in the fall, I'll be physically and mentally fresh, ready to go for another long season. It's easy after a long summer to show up worn-out.

N-L: A question every non-swimmer is dying to know. How often do you shave your legs? Do you use Nair?

JT: Three times a year. And no, I don't use Nair.

N-L: Chocolate or vanilla?

JT: Definitely chocolate.

N-L: What do you like most about swimming here?

JT: The team. The team is great—the camaraderie, the unity, the way we push each other to

become better swimmers. We're a very tight group.

N-L: What do you dislike most about swimming?

JT: The amount of school that we have to miss. It's easy to fall behind in your schoolwork fast because of all the trips.

[The team traveled to meets in as far as Gambier, Ohio; Chapel Hill, N.C.; Pittsburgh, Pa. and Oxford, Ohio. They also went to Florida to train over winter break.]

N-L: Hypothetical situation: You're stranded on a desert island. If you could bring anything, what would you have with you?

JT: I'd bring my music. My favorite bands are Jedi Mind Tricks, Smashing Pumpkins, the Red Hot Chili Peppers and the Mars Volta.

And that about sums up this Athlete of the Week. Want to know more? Just ask Thomas himself. He'll surely provide you with a unique answer.



FILE PHOTO

VITAL STATISTICS

Year: Sophomore
Major: BME

Hopkins Highlights: Earned two All-American honors in NCAA championships.

SPORTS

Baseball team is ahead of the pitch with a powerful start

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12
to win every inning, so we want to score at least one run each inning," senior third basemen Todd Emr said.

The versatility of this year's lineup affords the option of finding the right combination of reliance on power and the big inning versus aggressiveness on the base paths. The team does not overlook their ability to manufacture a run if necessary, collecting 36 stolen bags in 41 attempts while in Arizona.

"We have also used the bunt effectively, and we've been great at getting sacrifice flies," senior first basemen Matt Benchener said. "When the game is on the line, we've been good at getting what we need from the small ball side."

Both games of the opening series at the invitational against the Pitt-Bradford Panthers fell in the Jays' favor.

The first game was a prime example of an offensive surge late in the game that forced extra innings and the eventual 7-4 victory. The momentum was taken immediately into the next contest with back-to-back five run innings to start game two. Senior pitcher Joe Zaccaria delivered a five-inning, four-hit gem that allowed Hopkins to cruise to a 16-1 win.

The coming days were not as easy for the team, as they spiraled into a three-game losing streak after facing some stiffer competition. A combination of attempted but failed late-inning comebacks and a shaky bullpen caused the Jays to drop games to Cortland State (8-10), Wheaton (8-13) and Keene State (8-9).

"Those teams were supposedly some of the top in the country and we had a chance to win,"

Benchener said. "We just need to work on shutting the door when we get a lead, continuing to put the pressure on our opponents and finishing off games."

The Jays rose to the challenge and rebounded with a win against Western New England by a score of 12-7 and a nine inning 8-5 triumph over the Williams College Ephs. Pietroforte went three for four against the Ephs and drove in the deciding run to cap off a day in which he was short a triple to complete the cycle.

The following day saw two games with even more offensive action, beginning with a six-run rally to take an 11-4 win against Springfield College. The bats continued to roll, with the men producing a season-high 23 hits and reaching base on eight additional occasions from walks and hit by pitches off Wisconsin-La-Crosse to take a 16-10 victory.

"We have very good hitters on the team so if you give us enough at bats we will put some hits together and score some runs," said Emr, who was named the Centennial Conference Player of the Week.

The Jays closed the invitational by beating the Dakota State Trojans 13-6 and the Hamline University Pipers 14-3. Senior second baseman Nate Adelman strung out the go-ahead single against the Trojans, and senior pitcher Ryan Kuhlman went seven innings strong, only giving up four hits and two earned runs to top the Pipers.

"I think that as the season progresses and guys get their timing down, we will become a very dangerous team for all nine innings," co-captain Pietroforte said.

The club completed a six-game tear and left the desert with eight wins and three losses, bringing their season record to 10-3.

M. lax suffers third OT loss in a row

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12
Bratton's diving shot from behind the goal line extended, making the score 9-8 in Virginia's favor.

Hopkins tied it back up at the start of the fourth quarter as juniormidfielder Mark Brians scored his first goal of the game. From there, the fourth quarter became a shooting frenzy. Shamel Bratton scored Virginia's 10th goal of the game at with 7:38 on the clock, followed by second-string midfielder Brian Christopher's first goal of the season from the edge of the restraining box to tie the score at 10. In the final four minutes of the game, the Jays and the Cavs alternated scores with Rabil and Shamel Bratton scoring their third of the game, followed by Hopkins's 12th and final goal by junior attack Tom Duerr off another Delente face-off fast break with 3:08 remaining in the game.

Hopkins managed to maintain the lead for most of the remainder of the game, but Virginia pulled through with 56 seconds remaining on the clock as Rubeor punched in the tying goal for the Cavs. Virginia won the following face-off and in a battle of desperation on both sides, the Hopkins defense, combined with a shoestring save by Gvozden, pushed the game into overtime with the score tied at 12.

Peyser smoothly won the opening face-off in overtime, sending the Blue Jay offense down the field. Both defenses held strong and the two teams traded possessions throughout the first minutes of overtime. In what would be Hopkins's last definitive possession, Peyser shot a wild ball over the pipes toward the end line, creating a race for possession. With a questionable call by the referee, possession was awarded to the Cavs.

It was short-lived, however, as the Hopkins defense briefly secured the ball once more, only to relinquish it once again to an off-sides call in the closing seconds of the game. With 0:07 on the clock, Virginia's Carroll scored the game-winning goal to end



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior defender Andrew Miller moves to block a shot from a Syracuse offenseman.

the battle at 13-12.

"The whole game was back and forth," sophomore midfielder Michael Kimmel said. "We made a couple big plays. I wouldn't say there was really a turning point. I just think that in the end they made one more play than we did."

"We just haven't been able to finish a game right now," Rabil said. "We have three overtime losses. We've been playing pretty hard. It's just a matter of finishing the game."

The season is far from over for the Blue Jays. Hopkins has seen slumps like this before and rallied forward to great success. One thing is clear: These next few games will be crucial to the team's future success.

"We have a sense of urgency that we need to win this next game," Rabil said. "It's still March and the season stretches through May. It's better now than later and we're just going to keep work-

ing."

Referring to last year's slump, Kimmel said, "We have a veteran team. A lot of kids came back from last year, but at the same time, last year was last year and this year is a new year. We can't think that last year we got out of a three-game skid and then won nine straight and then won the championship. We go through each year differently. I think right now that no one's given up yet on the team even though some people are writing us off."

Virginia's victory pulled them to a number-one ranking in the national poll, a spot that once belonged to the Blue Jays. However, Hopkins's last few games have proven that the difference between these rankings can be a matter of seconds. The Blue Jays face off against fifth-ranked University of North Carolina this Saturday at Homewood Field, seeking to end the slump and continue in the pattern of last year's season.

Trifecta of hat tricks leads w. lax to win

Bathras, Ibello and Schrum led the scoring for the Lady Jays against Univ. of Oregon

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"I was really happy that I could contribute to the team," Bathras said. "I was excited to set a personal career high with goals and points in a game but that comes second to how I felt when I was able to finish the shots that I took and push our team ahead of Oregon. This win was big for us, as is every game that we play, and when I'm out on the field, my job as an attacker for our team is to help our offense put the ball in the back of the net or assist as many times as possible."

Hopkins outshot Oregon 33-22 and forced the Ducks into a season-high 19 turnovers. The victory gave the Jays a 3-0 advantage in its series against Oregon.

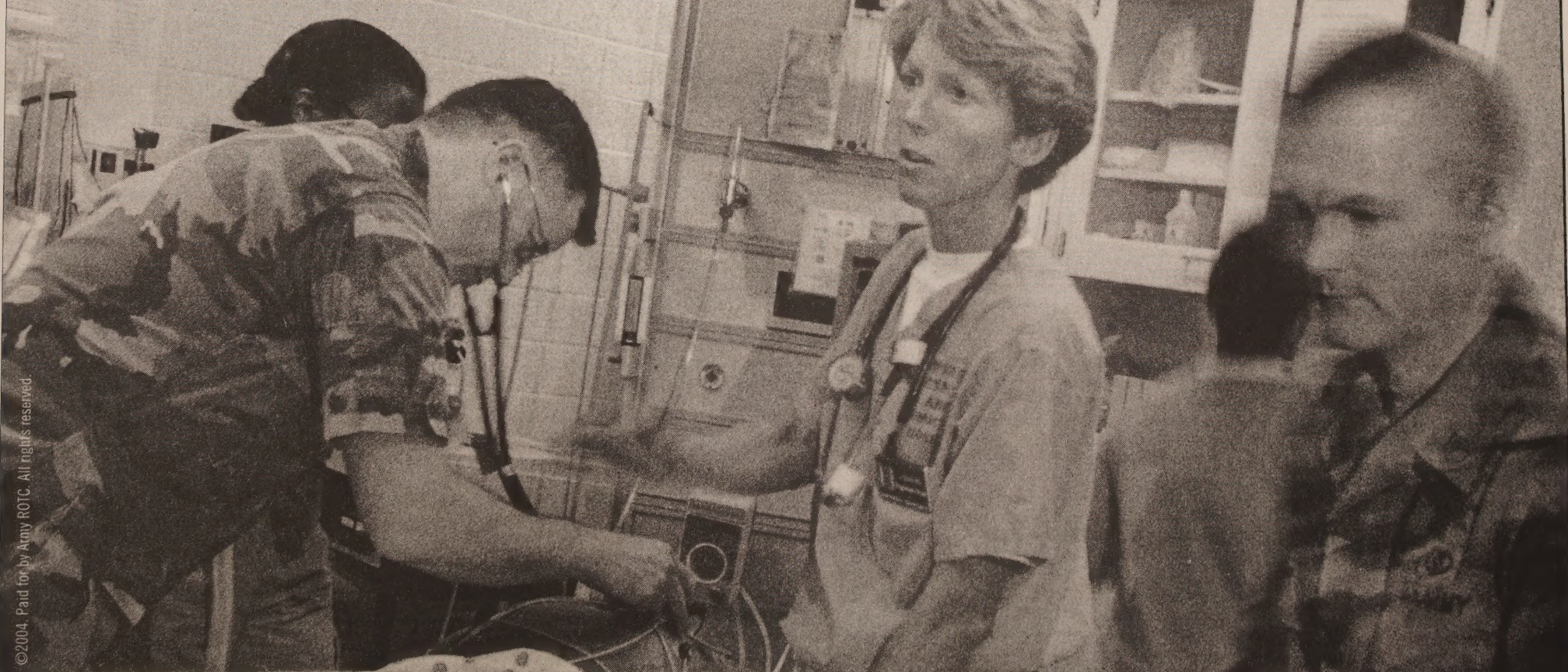
"I felt our team did some very nice things against Oregon," coach Tucker said. "Yet we also made some mistakes that allowed the game to be close when we could have pulled away a bit."

As for the rest of the season, Bathras said, "All of my teammates, including myself, want to win a National Championship. So with that, one of our goals, if not our biggest and most important goal, as a team is to obviously win that National Championship this year."

"I believe and know that we have the heart, the guts, the intensity and the drive to do what it takes to earn and win that trophy."

The pursuit of the trophy continues on Thursday, March 27 as the Jays will welcome the Bearcats of the University of Cincinnati to Homewood Field. The opening face-off will be at 7 p.m.

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SPORTS

THIS DAY IN SPORTS

1871: The first international rugby football match is held in Raeburn Place, a stadium in Edinburgh, Scotland. The match was between Scotland and England. To honor this day, we've included articles on the men's and women's rugby teams here at Hopkins.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY

W. lacrosse vs. Cincinnati 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

M. lacrosse vs. UNC 2 p.m.

Trifecta of hat tricks leads Lady Jays to a win

By MIKE YUAN
News-Letter Staff Writer

It was a hat trick of hat tricks as the Hopkins women's lacrosse team pulled off the win in Saturday afternoon's game against Oregon, as three Jays were able to score three goals each.

Hopkins, entering with a No. 12 ranking, was able to outplay the 16th-ranked Ducks at La Costa Canyon High School in San Diego, winning the game 10-9. The win pulled the Jays to a game under .500 for the season, bringing their record to 3-4 and giving the Ducks their third loss of the season.

"They are a good team with a lot of speed and athleticism," said head coach Janine Tucker with regard to Oregon. "We were going to have to play well to come away with a win. Our Blue Jays are fighters and every game is a challenge — that is why we play a tough schedule."

In the early going, it was all Hopkins as sophomore midfielder Paige Ibello netted back-to-back goals, giving the Jays a 2-0 lead less than four minutes into the game. After a Ducks goal, sophomore attack Sam Schrum was able to score quickly, making it 3-1 Hopkins. Later on in the half, Schrum and sophomore attack Brett Bathras scored back to back goals to give Hopkins a 5-2



Freshman middle Bianna Cronin fights past two Towson defenders in Wednesday's game. The Lady Jays won the game 12-10.

SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

advantage.

After an Oregon timeout, the Ducks' senior attacker Theresa Waldron scored three straight goals over the final 15 minutes of the half to break even with the Jays at 5-5 heading into half-

time.

Coming out of the half, Erin Chisnell, a sophomore midfielder, scored on a free position shot, giving the Ducks their first and only lead of the game. Schrum and freshman attacker Brooke

Foussadier retaliated with back-to-back goals to retake the lead, giving Schrum a hat trick as well.

With 8:49 to play in the game, Oregon was able to get two shots past sophomore goalie Lizzie O'Ferrall, but Bathras answered with a goal of her own. Ibello came back to complete her hat trick with 7:46 to play on a free position shot, giving the Blue Jays the lead for good. Two minutes later, Bathras was able to score again on an unassisted shot, finishing off her hat trick and sealing the Jays' victory.

Bathras led Hopkins with three goals and two assists, while Schrum had one assist to go with her three goals. Ibello was the third Jay with three goals. O'Ferrall finished with seven saves, earning her first win of the season en route. She subbed in for freshman Julianne Wisner in the first half after 20 minutes of play.

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Baseball finds their form early in season

By ALEXANDER IP
News-Letter Staff Writer

With six games won by a margin of five runs or more at the RussMatt Greater Phoenix Invitational, the men's baseball team was in mid-season form earlier than expected last week.

Averaging 11 runs per game over the course of the nine day 11-game event, the Blue Jays' scintillating offense definitely found a new home during spring break. However, the team is ultimately longing for a trip up north to Wisconsin in late May, where the Division-III College World Series is being held.

The Jays are well on their way to reaching their goal but admittedly still have some work to do. The stalwart bats overshadowed some modest performances from the pitching staff, which combined to give up an average of six and a half runs per outing.

"It's great to know that even if you aren't pitching your best, the rest of the team will gener-

ally be there to pick you up," senior pitcher Brian Duddie said. "[It makes] those few runs you allowed to bloop-hits look like nothing, compared to what the opposing pitcher is going through."

Mistake-free baseball also was not exactly a marquee on their road trip, with a total of 13 errors charged to Hopkins.

"Everyone knows that pitching and defense wins championships. We will only go as far as our pitchers take us this year and our pitchers have not yet shown how dominant they can be," said senior center fielder Rob Pietroforte.

Nonetheless, the hitters — who are batting .400 as a team — are relentlessly searching for a higher level of consistency. A few of their recent matches have been too close for comfort, with offensive droughts early and go-ahead scoring coming in the late innings and on extra-base hits.

"Our goal for every game is

CONTINUED ON PAGE B11



FILE PHOTO

Junior pitchers Pete Smith and Chez Angeloni, with senior catcher Tony Margve.



FILE PHOTO

A Hopkins swimmer works toward a close finish in the NCAA Championships. Hopkins placed second as a team in the event.

M. swimming shatters JHU records at NAAs

The four qualifying swimmers on the men's team finished second in the National Tournament

By MIKE SUMNER
News-Letter Staff Writer

In a tremendous display, the men's swimming team broke nine different school records en route to a second place finish overall at the 2008 NCAA Championships in Oxford, Ohio. The team finished far behind the perennial champions from Kenyon College; a team currently on a miraculous, unprecedented streak of 29 straight Division-III National Championship victories.

The Blue Jays were in second place following day one of the competition. They opened competition with a bronze finish in the 200 freestyle medley. The team of seniors Brad Test and Matt Fedderly, along with sophomores John Thomas and Neil Mahoney swam at a time of 1:21:80, breaking the school record by 0.77 seconds, a record that had stood since 1994. They followed

that up with places in the 200 individual medley and the 50 free. Mahoney took fourth in the 200 IM, swimming with a time of 1:51:50. However, his preliminary time of 1:50:70 bested the school record by a full two seconds. Placing fifth in the 50 free, Test timed in with 20:35. But like Mahoney, his preliminary time of 20:03 broke another school record by .23. They would finish out the day with a second place finish in the 400 medley with their record setting time of 3:18:43.

The second day of competition ended with two more school records broken by the Jays, with a silver in the 200 medley relay, Fedderly and Test. Teammates John Thomas and Bob Sershon broke their own record of 1:31:38 with a time of 1:30:32. After an 11th place finish in the 400 IM and a 16th in the 100 butterfly, Hopkins scored important team points by placing three swim-

mers in the top 16 in the 100 breaststroke. It would be Thomas again breaking his second record of the day. Placing second in the 100 backstroke, Thomas broke his old record with a time of 48.95, 42 seconds faster than his previous record. Hopkins ended the day with a fourth place finish in the 800 free relay. Though they had dropped to third on the scoreboard, they had high hopes going into the final day of competition.

Test and Thomas led the way on the final day of competition. Though the team dropped momentarily to fourth place after the first event where they had no swimmer, Thomas responded in dramatic fashion as he won his first career title in the very next event. Swimming in the 200 back, Thomas finished with a time of 1:47:43, besting his old record by 1.51 seconds and only

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INSIDE

Men's Rugby: a look at the team

The men's rugby team may not be an official varsity sport at Hopkins, but the team has achieved massive success on the club circuit. Learn more about the team on and off the field. **Page B10.**

Athlete of the Week: John Thomas

Sophomore swimmer John Thomas just won the NCAA Championship in the backstroke, almost breaking the national record. He's also a pretty funny guy. **Page B10.**

Practice makes perfect: women's rugby

Sports editor Mary Doman suited up with the women's rugby team, Hopkins's newest club sport. After a very rough couple of hours, she managed to tell her story. **Page B10.**

M. lax suffers third OT loss in a row

By DEMIAN KENDALL
Sports Editor

The men's lacrosse team saw flashbacks of last season's three-game slump as Virginia's Brian Carroll netted the final goal in the last seven seconds of Saturday's overtime game.

The loss marked the third straight overtime loss for the Blue Jays, who had fallen to Hofstra and Syracuse in the previous two weeks.

The Hopkins lacrosse team was on a mission. With two losses behind them, the team sought to beat the Cavaliers on their home field, a feat that hadn't been accomplished by the Jays since 1998. However, it was to be a long, gritty battle for the fourth-ranked Hopkins squad.

Virginiadrew first blood as senior attack Ben Rubeor sliced in an opening goal a mere two and a half minutes into the game. Hopkins quickly responded with a goal from senior attack Michael Doneger.

From there, the game became a back-and-forth exchange of quick plays, fast breaks, and hard-earned scores.

In the closing minutes of the first quarter, Virginia's freshman midfielder Rhamel Bratton ended a long stalemate, scoring Virginia's second goal of the game, quickly followed by two scores from senior attack Kevin Huntley.

The second quarter, however, belonged to Virginia. De-

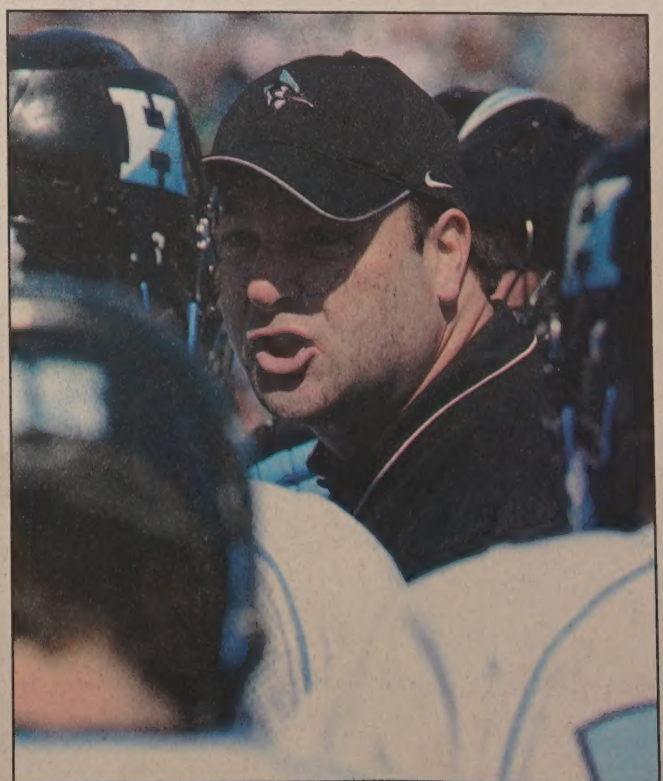
shot by Carroll from the top of the restraining box in the final five seconds of the half. The Blue Jays headed to the locker room down 6-5, but the fight had only begun.

Senior midfielder Stephen Peyser started the second half strong for the Blue Jays, scoring off of a Rabil-

trademark swim move past a Virginia defender, netting a lettie laser shot to the top of the net just over two minutes into the half. Peyser would finish the game with two goals against his former high school teammate, freshman goalie Adam Ghitelman, with whom Peyser regularly practices in the off-season.

Late in the third quarter, freshman FOGO ("face-off, get off") Matt Dolente took over at the face-off X, handily winning the face-off and taking the ball downfield to score the tying goal at eight. Virginia, however, ended the third quarter as they did the second, pulling ahead by one with freshman midfielder Shamel

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SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Head coach Dave Pietramala displays his usual intensity in the middle of a game.

spite sophomore goalie Mike Gvozden's strong presence between the pipes, the Cavs managed to net four goals to Hopkins' two, including the closing